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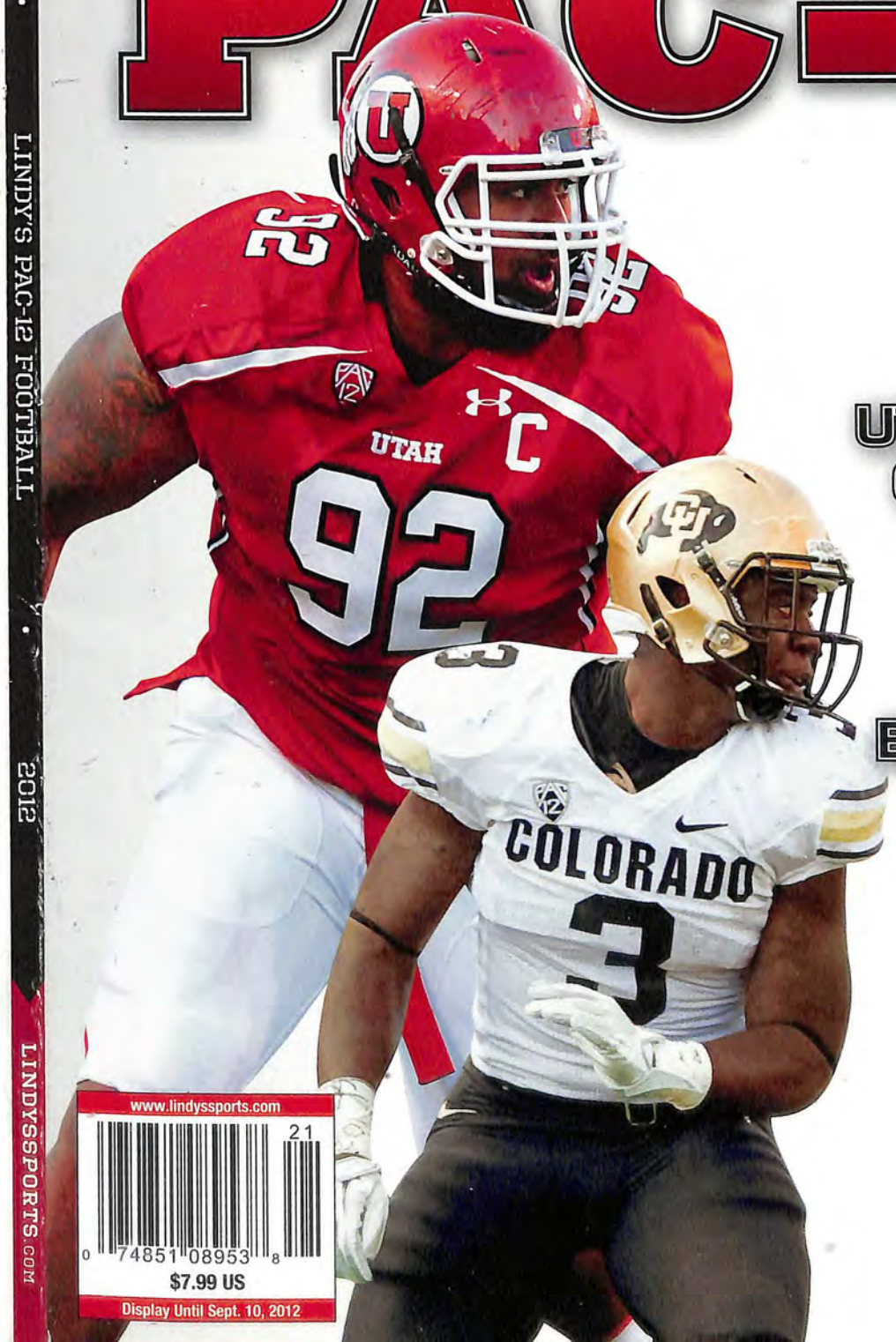

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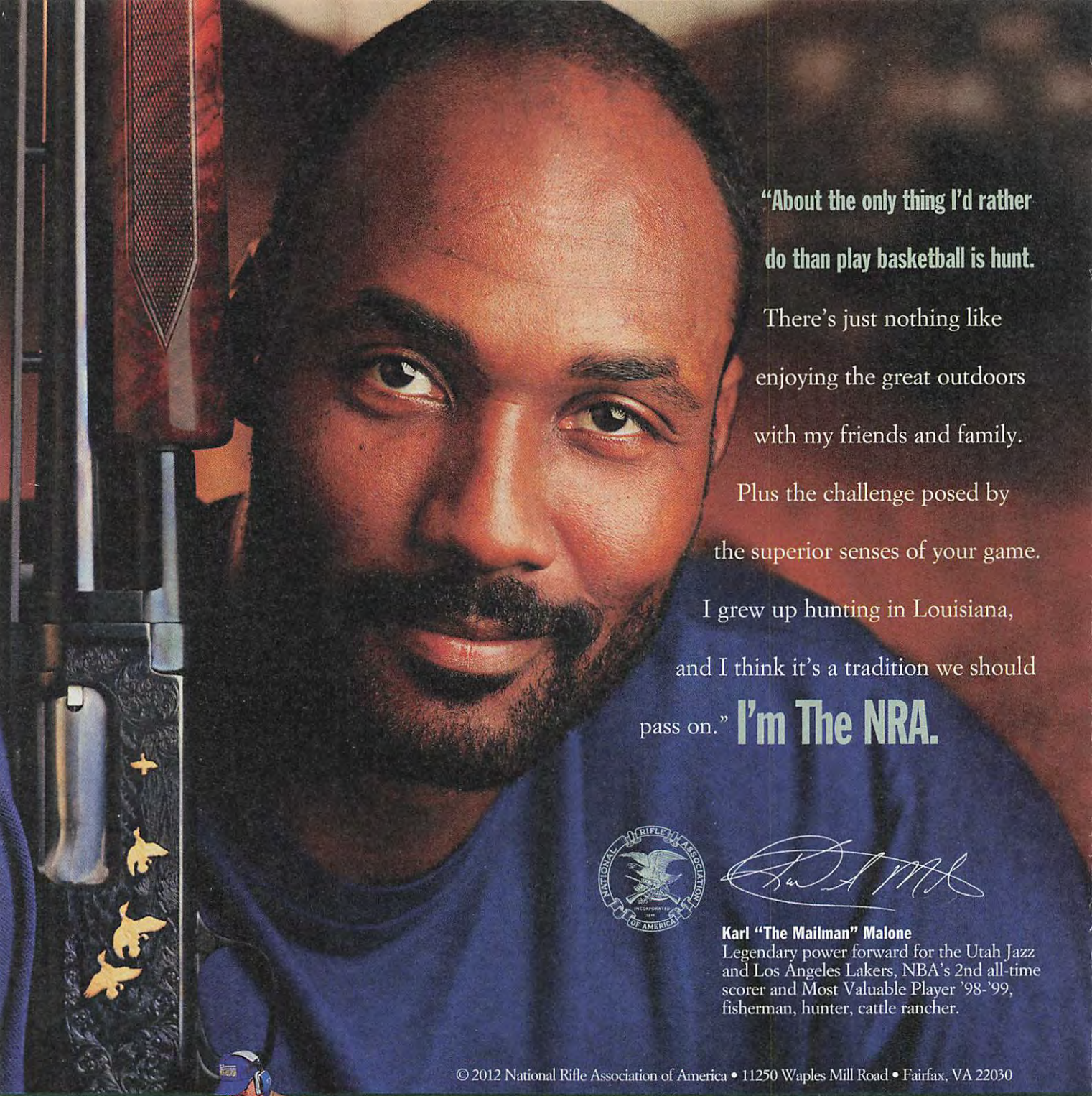

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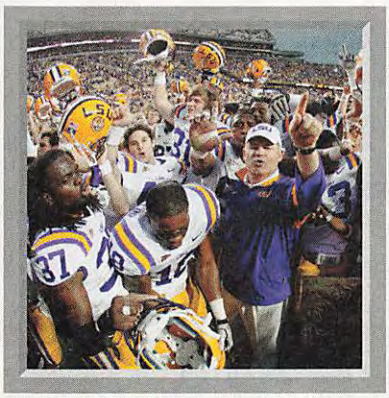

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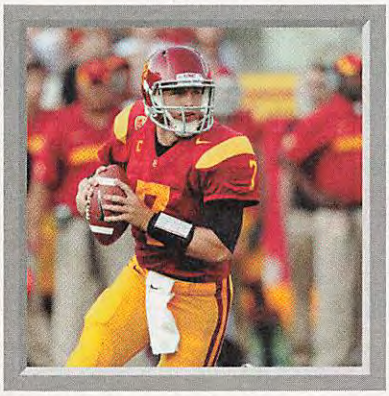

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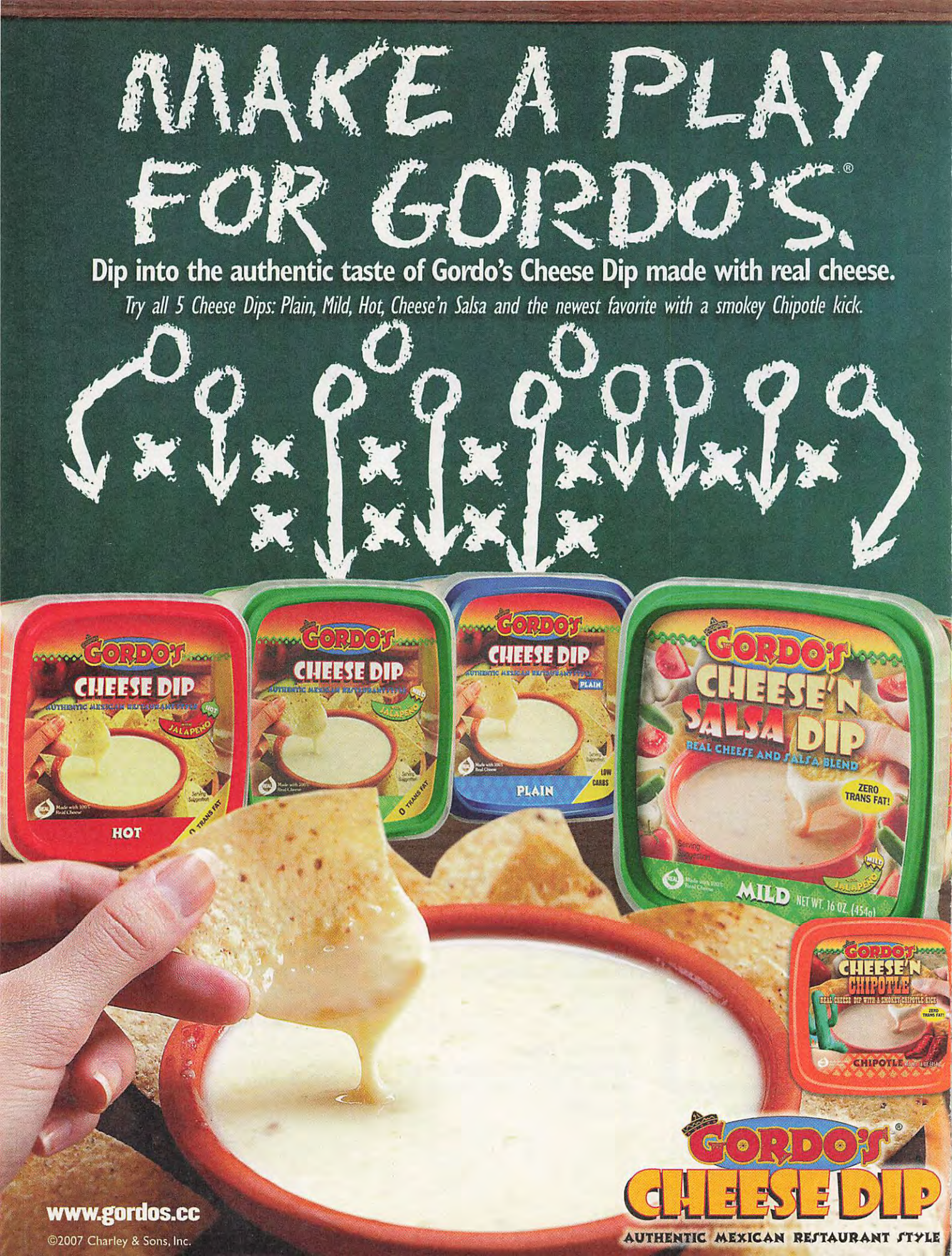

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Letter from the Publisher

Coaches Gone Wild is the title of the lead feature in our regional issues this year. Dennis Dodd takes an insider's look at the trials and tribulations of several of the game's top coaches beginning on page 18.

Scoping the Nation beginning on page 44 — written by *Lindy's* senior editor Anthony Gimino — tells you about all the coaching changes in college football this year. Anthony also tells who is on the proverbial "hot seat" on page 23.

Lindy's added a new Mountain West Preview last year and this year has added preseason team issues for Alabama, Michigan, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Texas. You can order them from our website or they will be on the newsstands in those respective states.

Lindy's will also be launching a new and improved website on Aug. 1st of this year. It will feature daily updates and great information to enhance the *Lindy's* brand online. We hope you check it out!

I hope your favorite team has a terrific year. As always, your comments are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lindy Davis Jr.

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NATIONAL PICKS

Ready to Stick the Landing

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1. LSU

LSU did everything except stick the landing last season. The Tigers, kings of the comebacks and lords of one of the finest college football seasons ever for 13 games, had to swallow a goose-egg omelet, eagerly fed by league rival Alabama. Too bad it was in the BCS Championship Game.

Talk about all the motivation they need for this season. "Fire back" mode describes LSU perfectly after the sting of the title game.

No one doubts the Tigers' ammunition. The big boys on both sides of the line are nasty and among the nation's finest — the best way to be when setting out to hunt down the national championship. Size, speed and athleticism fill the roster — just your typical SEC championship team — plus these Tigers are led by a Honey Badger loaded for bear.

THE GOOD NEWS: LSU has a quarterback. Zach Mettenberger, who began his career at Georgia before being dismissed for legal issues, will do what Jordan Jefferson couldn't in the national title game: Stand and deliver. Coach Les Miles won't veer from loving on his punishing ground game — a four-headed backfield is a year older and better — but Mettenberger creates the needed balance. CB Tyrann Mathieu returns to make plays everywhere all the time, while defensive ends Sam Montgomery and Barkevious Mingo are lightning bolts off the edge and can't be successfully double-teamed at once.

THE BAD NEWS: The Tigers lost Thorpe Award-Winning cornerback Morris Claiborne early to the NFL Draft, and receiver Rueben Randle and defensive tackle Michael Brockers also took an early train out of Baton Rouge. LSU fans don't want to think too hard about who's next if Mettenberger goes down ... or just isn't up to the task. As with last year, the Tigers will have to earn every inch of their No. 1 ranking with road games at Auburn, Florida, Texas A&M and Arkansas.

OUR CALL: It's insanity to bet against the SEC winning its seventh consecutive national title. LSU gets Alabama in Baton Rouge for what should be the defining game of the college season. No team in the country looks better in its uniforms than LSU, and this time when the Tigers run out the clock at the end of the season, it will be to celebrate their third national championship in 10 years.

2. USC

Talented roster returns to glory

Matt Barkley confounded the draftniks and disappointed the rest of the Pac-12 by staying for his senior season, just like Matt Leinart did for the Trojans in 2005. Coach Lane Kiffin will forever be in Barkley's debt as the 37-year-old coach now sees his career really taking off after whatever that was with the Oakland Raiders, a false start at Tennessee, and two years of a postseason ban at USC.

THE GOOD NEWS: Barkley has the best receiver in the country in Robert Woods, and if Woods isn't No. 1, Marqise Lee might be. Multiple All-Americans dot the lineup, just like the Pete Carroll days. USC gets Oregon in the L.A. Coliseum, probably twice (once in the regular season, once in Pac-12 title game).

THE BAD NEWS: USC has 10 fewer scholarship players than most teams, capped at 75 this season as NCAA sanctions kick in. Depth is a concern virtually everywhere and trucking through to a 13-0 haul will require injury blessings from the football gods.

OUR CALL: The Trojans re-turned a corner last season by winning at Oregon in mid-November and are hitting the accelerator back to the glory days. The offense will be flat-out unstoppable ... a nice contrast, wouldn't you say, to LSU's defense in January?

3. Alabama

Restocking ... repeating not out of the question

The easy way to get another national championship trophy is to spend $30,000 on a new Waterford crystal football to replace the one that was shattered when a player's parent accidentally knocked it off its perch in the spring. The hard way is to earn it on the field after losing half of your starters on offense and defense, including Heisman finalist running back Trent Richardson, while trying to steer through the swamps of the SEC West — and win in Baton Rouge.

THE GOOD NEWS: Alabama's offensive line is the best in the country; QB AJ McCarron manages the game beautifully; and another star (or two) will emerge at running back. Nick Saban has recruited and evaluated better than anyone in the past five years.

THE BAD NEWS: The Tide is still crazy-talented on defense, but it takes experience to run the defense as Saban wants, and that's what Alabama lacks in places. There's no telling when the next shank, yank, or worm-burner is going to come in the kicking game.

OUR CALL: The Tide will play hearty defense, run the ball, gain field position through special teams, and not turn it over. It will work. Again. We have them No. 3 ... so we're seeing only one L — at LSU.

4. Oklahoma

Bouncing back is Sooners' strong suit

It wasn't just the injuries. It wasn't just the late-season flameout. It wasn't just booting a chance at an eighth conference title in 13 seasons under Bob Stoops. It was that Oklahoma State capitalized on it all to win its first Big 12 championship. You can bet 2011 isn't sitting lightly in the OU craw. How do we know? Following seasons in which the Sooners haven't won a conference title under Stoops, they are 50-8.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Landry Jones, who slumped in the second half of the season, is recommitted, having spent part of spring practice studying under quarterback guru George Whitfield Jr. in California. Four offensive line starters return from a unit that gave up only 11 sacks on 583 throws.

THE BAD NEWS: Jones must thrive without WR Ryan Broyles, whose late-season injury was costly. Backup QB Blake "Belldozer" Bell is a Wildcat wild card, but how will that all play out? The defense, while talented, wasn't particularly physical last season.

OUR CALL: The record-setting Jones will rebound in a big way. So will RB Dominique Whaley, a walk-on who was poised to lead the team in rushing before being injured. A national title might be possible if OU can win at West Virginia and TCU in the final three weeks.

5. Oregon

Flying as high as a kite

The Ducks came out ahead in offseason transactions, with quarterback Darron Thomas making the dubious decision to leave early for the NFL, while coach Chip Kelly kept his feet on the ground in Eugene after flirting with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Replacing Thomas, while unexpected, is relatively easy — plug in Bryan Bennett or Marcus Mariota. Kelly is proving to be one of a kind, going 36-6 in three seasons with three conference titles and one national title game appearance.

THE GOOD NEWS: Running back Kenjon Barner is still fast. Running back/receiver/returner De'Anthony Thomas is a rocket booster in Nikes. Offense? No prob. Defense? Speedy. The non-conference schedule is easy-breezy and the Ducks should be walking on water all the way to 9-0 and a date at USC.

THE BAD NEWS: There's been a lot of, uh, smoke around the Oregon program with NCAA investigators snooping around over possible recruiting misdeeds and a spring ESPN report over alleged widespread marijuana use among the Ducks. Is this a program on the brink of very bad things?

OUR CALL: Who's going to beat these guys except for USC? Yeah, nobody. The Ducks have averaged 43 points per game under Kelly and continue to live in the fast lane.

6. Georgia

Big-time defense and big-time schedule

Coach Mark Richt distanced himself from the hot seat with a 10-game winning streak and an SEC East title last season. He's averaged 9.6 victories across 11 seasons in Athens, so any knocks on him mostly have to be chalked up to the hyperventilation of SEC fans. Richt will keep on keeping on (and, perhaps, then some) with QB Aaron Murray, plenty of playmakers, and a hulking, talented and veteran defense.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Dawgs won't dazzle with schemes on offense, but they do what they do well. If 2011 star recruit Isaiah Crowell doesn't stay durable and emerge as a star in the backfield, 2012 star recruit Keith Marshall will. Best news: No LSU, Alabama or Arkansas on the league schedule.

THE BAD NEWS: The offensive line lost three starters. The defense has to deal with multiple suspensions early in the season. The running game has to show up against physical teams (73 carries for 129 yards in season-ending losses to LSU and Michigan State).

OUR CALL: One SEC assistant coach told *Lindy's* that, "Georgia, to me, is the most talented defense in the league, no question." That's good enough for us to predict an East title and a close SEC championship game this time around.

7. Michigan

Sudden rise has Big Blue thinking bigger

Going 11-2 and winning the Sugar Bowl in his first season wiped away much of the frustration from the three-year Rich Rodriguez era, but it sure didn't do Brady Hoke any favors going forward. Any patience the Wolverines' faithful would have extended is gone now, given that smashing debut. Despite the record, he's still scrambling to cover some deficiencies in depth and talent. But if teams are going to make Michigan pay, they better hurry before Hoke's recruiting success takes hold.

THE GOOD NEWS: Michigan has a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in QB Denard Robinson and TB Fitzgerald Toussaint. Robinson says his comfort level running Al Borges' system for a second year is "day and night" from last year. That can't be good for opponents.

THE BAD NEWS: NT Mike Martin's departure alone would leave a gaping hole on the defensive line, but two other starters are gone from a unit that wasn't overly deep. Michigan has to shuffle up front, where defensive success starts ... or doesn't.

OUR CALL: Michigan opens against Alabama in Dallas and plays three of its first five away from Ann Arbor. The season-finale at Ohio State is no picnic, either, but the Wolverines should be able to outscore a lot of their problems.

8. FLORIDA STATE

'Noles entering now-or-never territory

Waiting for the tide to rise again after repeated epic recruiting hauls, Florida State has needed only ankle waders under Jimbo Fisher. The promise of a return to prominence has seemed realistic; there are enough blue-chip recruits on the roster that last season's 9-4 record can be classified as an unmitigated disappointment. The potential of Signing Day can only carry a coach so far; it's time for Fisher to change the discussion back to championships. We're thinking 11 wins should do it.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Seminoles should have a guillotine of a defense with speed and explosiveness at every level of that unit. QB EJ Manuel is electric and could be a difference-maker if he adds consistency.

THE BAD NEWS: Offensive line — namely left tackle, where DT convert Cameron Ewing could start — is unsettled. The personnel turnover on special teams rates as a chief worry for a team with a woeful recent history in close games (three losses by five points or less last season).

OUR CALL: Manuel need not be a Heisman Trophy candidate. He just needs to let the weapons around him work for him and count on a cutthroat defense to be the team's meal ticket to the BCS.

9. Arkansas

Which way, Hogs? Tough to say

Arkansas built a bridge to 2013 by bringing back popular assistant coach John L. Smith on a 10-month contract, but there still could be troubled water below the wake of Bobby Petrino's career face-plant. This looked to be *the* year for the Hogs, but how should we recalibrate expectations with an interim head coach? Will this be a more fragile team? Or could this be a rally-around-the-campfire moment? Hard to say.

THE GOOD NEWS: Offensive coordinator Paul Petrino ranked senior QB Tyler Wilson just a step below Superman this spring. No one argued. The Hogs have all manner of Saturday superheroes, including RB Knile Davis, who should be back to 2010 form after 2011's ankle injury.

THE BAD NEWS: Arkansas' defense is good, but doesn't rank with the SEC elite; consider that the Razorbacks allowed a combined 79 points in losses to LSU and Alabama last season. And Auburn fans happily remember the 65 the Tigers plastered on the Hogs in 2010.

OUR CALL: We like the hiring of Smith, who will retain the meeting of the minds between the players and coaches. But the Hogs have hit the SEC West glass ceiling, not breaking through, even with home games vs. LSU and 'Bama.

10. WEST VIRGINIA

Mountaineers Have Muscle to Take Big 12

Leaving the Big East for the Big 12 is not a lateral move, rather a major jump in class based on the offense and NFL-caliber talent on the other sideline every week. Second-year head coach Dana Holgorsen, formerly the coordinator at Oklahoma State, knows his offense works here. Whether the defense gets enough traction with its new-look 3-4 against the likes of Oklahoma and TCU is the great unknown entering 2012.

THE GOOD NEWS: Holgorsen can coach quarterbacks. Geno Smith leads an elite offense that attacks vertically, horizontally and everyplace in between. The Mountaineers have speed from marquee skill guys that go three deep at halfback, plus two 1,000-yard receivers — Tavon Austin and Stedman Bailey.

THE BAD NEWS: WVU goes from a league dotted with dormant offenses to the OK Corral that is the Big 12. The Mountaineers could really use DE/LB Bruce Irvin, who became a first-round 2012 draft pick. Coaches called the revamped 3-4 scheme a work in progress in the spring.

OUR CALL: Unlike the Big East, October and November in the Big 12 bring few breathers, but it looks as if the Mountaineers are conditioned to be marathon runners, as well as sprinters.

11. South Carolina

Poised for a run at East title

It only took 20 years, but South Carolina looks like an honest-to-goodness SEC program, built on first-round defensive talent, a punishing ground game, and one of the best coaches money can buy. You can make the case that no coach in the SEC has squeezed more out of his talent the past few years than Steve Spurrier, especially last season when he reversed course at quarterback and lost his star running back at midseason ... and still won a school-record 11 games.

THE GOOD NEWS: RB Marcus Lattimore is back from injury to plow even the stoutest of defenses. Dual-threat QB Connor Shaw could offer, at long last, the stability needed at the position. The only better pair of DEs (Jadeveon Clowney, Devin Taylor) is at LSU. Maybe.

THE BAD NEWS: The architect of the defense, coordinator Ellis Johnson, is gone, taking over as the boss at Southern Miss. A playmaker on each side of the ball — WR Alshon Jeffery and CB Stephon Gilmore — left early for the NFL. Gamecocks have to play LSU and Arkansas; East rival Georgia does not.

OUR CALL: The Gamecocks haven't lost in the past two years to annual rivals Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and Clemson. Maybe only the Dawgs get them this season.

12. Michigan State

Young, talented, and making titles a habit

The return of 17 starters, only five of whom are seniors, suggests more success is on the way after coach Mark Dantonio guided MSU to consecutive 11-win seasons, including a share of the Big Ten title in 2010 and a Legends Division crown last year. More such good times should lie ahead, given the talent and experience Dantonio has returning. We'll know early one way or another, as Sparty takes on Boise State, Notre Dame and Ohio State — all at home — before the end of September.

THE GOOD NEWS: Four starters on the offensive line and tandem tailbacks Le'Veon Bell and Edwin Baker give MSU a chance to break in new quarterback Andrew Maxwell and an inexperienced receiving corps through a tough early schedule.

THE BAD NEWS: Maxwell seemed ready to take over for three-year starter Kirk Cousins, but a sprained knee knocked him out of the last half of spring practice. That didn't help him build a rapport with a receiving group that must replace B.J. Cunningham and Keshawn Martin.

OUR CALL: The Spartans are salty on defense, led by rush end William Gholston, and have a run game built for Big Ten success. That's got to be worth at least nine regular-season wins.

13. CLEMSON

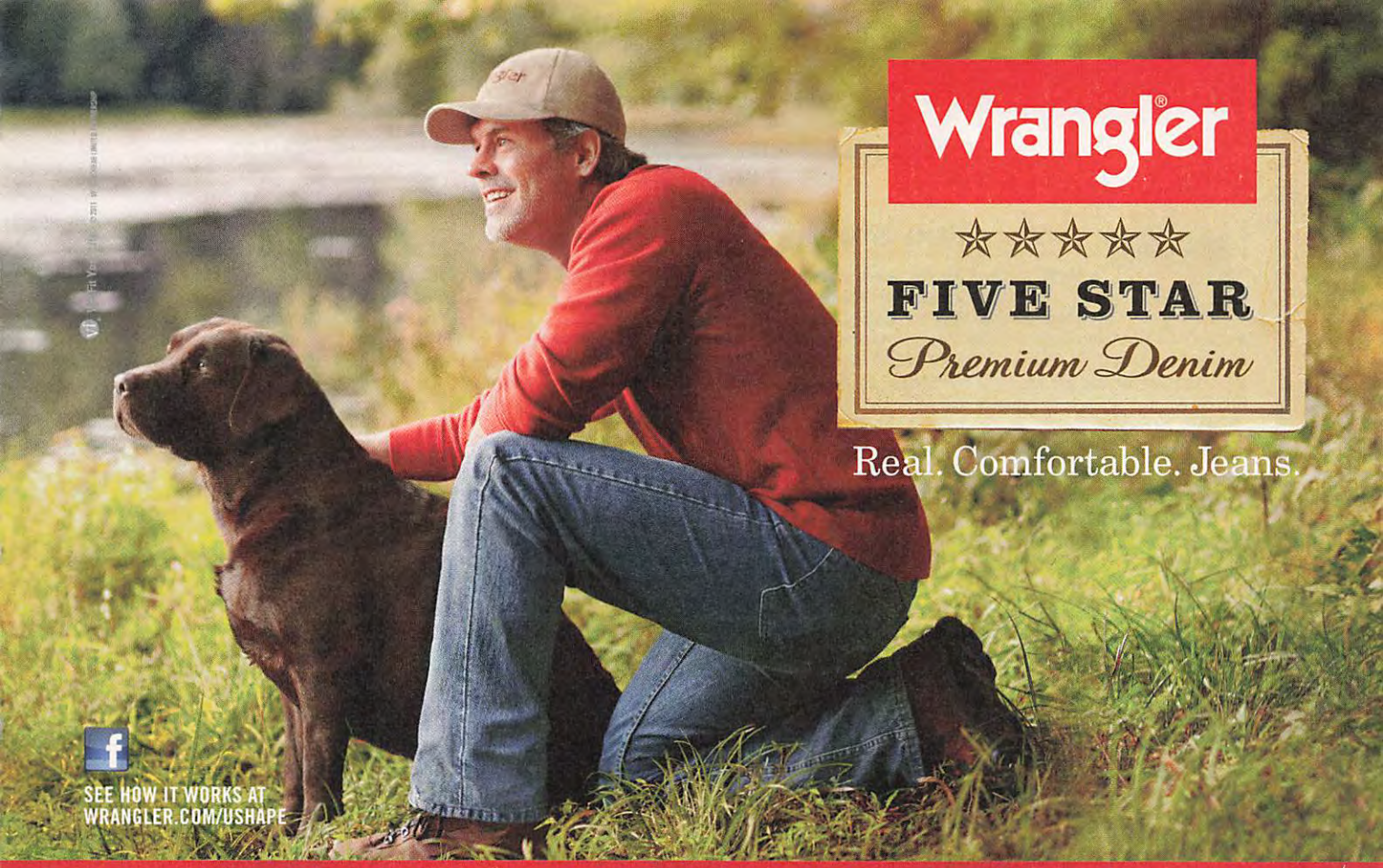
Tigers look to get tougher on D

Set aside the perspiration on coach Dabo Swinney's brow over the prospect of replacing three starting offensive linemen and focus on what he cares about most — defense. Former Oklahoma coordinator Brent Venables was brought in to help Clemson not just repeat as conference champions, but to become a wrecking-ball group akin to the edgy Sooners' defenses of yesteryear. That defense will be tested every day in practice by better skill players than it will see on Saturdays.

THE GOOD NEWS: There aren't many offensive trios better than this dynamic group — QB Tajh Boyd, superstar WR Sammy Watkins and 1,000-yard rusher Andre Ellington. In the second half of the season, all the pedestal games are in Death Valley — Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, NC State, South Carolina.

THE BAD NEWS: The Tigers must delete any recall of the 70-33 whipping from West Virginia in what became the Orange Crush Bowl, as well as the lopsided losses at NC State and South Carolina in back-to-back games in November.

OUR CALL: Clemson's talent level rates with the elite in the conference. That's nothing new. But the defense has to improve for the Tigers to be more than just a fun team to watch.



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14. Ohio State

Meyer's arrival has Buckeyes smiling

Urban Meyer's return to the sideline and to OSU, where he started his career as a graduate assistant coach in the 1980s, immediately erased the lingering bitterness among those too thick to understand that Jim Tressel's lies to the NCAA and to his own school couldn't be tolerated. Buckeye fans are all-in with Meyer, whose pursuit of a third BCS title ring must wait until the expiration of a one-year bowl ban left by Tressel.

THE GOOD NEWS: Sophomore QB Braxton Miller gives Meyer a piece of clay perfectly tailored to run the offense that Alex Smith and Tim Tebow rode to fame. DE John Simon's rejection of an early entry into the NFL also provides a fulcrum on which to build the defense.

THE BAD NEWS: OSU finished 115th nationally in passing a year ago and returns no receiver with more than 14 catches. The linebackers were underachieving in 2011, which is one reason OSU struggled to its first losing season since 1999.

OUR CALL: A friendly schedule and the euphoria over Meyer's arrival should work for a nice bounce-back from OSU's 6-7 finish. If the Buckeyes can add some element of the pass, and Miller can stay healthy, a 10-win season isn't far-fetched.

15. TCU

Move up to the Big 12 offers big opportunities

A new stadium, a new conference, a new outlook. All of it can't come fast enough after an offseason drug scandal that resulted in the arrest of four players for alleged dealing. As the most overachieving non-automatic qualifier of the BCS era, the Horned Frogs know the schedule is getting tougher in the Big 12, but they're ready. TCU specializes in slaying bigger, badder opponents ... and it gets Oklahoma at home.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Casey Pachall made them forget Andy Dalton real quick-like. Throwing for 473 yards in a win at Boise State will do that. The backfield is set: Ed Wesley, Matthew Tucker and Waymon James combined for 2,100 yards. DE Stansly Maponga has All-America talent.

THE BAD NEWS: Strangely, Gary Patterson must revamp the defense. A unit that finished No. 1 in total D three years running slumped to 32nd last season. TCU will face five of 2011's top 15 offenses playing in the Big 12. LB Tanner Brock, one of those arrested, is the biggest loss from the drug busts.

OUR CALL: Patterson's 4-2-5 stack defense gets the toughest season-long test of his TCU career. Playing at Oklahoma State and West Virginia in back-to-back games will be the difference in the season. Ten wins aren't out of the question.

16. Oklahoma State

Gundy has Cowboys maturing into a real power

How do you follow the best season in school history? Coach 'em up. Part of the story of Oklahoma State's near-BCS title game season was the maturation of coach Mike Gundy. The Eddie Robinson National Coach of the Year also cashed in on a lot of T. Boone Pickens' cash, so Oklahoma State isn't going away as Gundy enters the prime of his career as a recruiter, play-caller, and coach. The Cowboys are no longer Texas and Oklahoma's little brother.

THE GOOD NEWS: RB Joseph Randle was overshadowed by the axis of Brandon Weeden and Justin Blackmon, but only Barry Sanders scored more TDs in a single Oklahoma State season. The Pokes are going to be more of a running team, which will be fine.

THE BAD NEWS: The quarterback position looks bare. Is that too harsh? Only one QB on the roster has thrown a pass in a college game. The winner at the end of the spring was true freshman Wes Lunt, who won't have the top two WRs from last year.

OUR CALL: Gundy has proven himself. The pipeline is rolling at Stillwater, and as long as Texas is on the rebound, consider Oklahoma State the second-best program in the Big 12.

17. Wisconsin

Major roster turnover doesn't dim hopes

Consecutive trips to the Rose Bowl and a resulting pair of excruciatingly close losses have ratcheted up the hunger for a BCS bowl win. Ohio State's one-year bowl ban will only help Bret Bielema coach his team back to the league championship game in Indianapolis and continue its recent dominance of the conference, as he sticks with what works: Running the same off-tackle play over and over.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Badgers will try to duplicate Russell Wilson's success in his lone year after transferring from North Carolina State by opening their arms to Maryland transfer Danny O'Brien. The 2010 ACC Newcomer of the Year will arrive in time for fall camp and to take over under center.

THE BAD NEWS: Bielema might need name tags to recognize the new coaches. Only three holdovers return from last season. The Badgers' 10 returning starters are also the fewest number of any team in the Big Ten.

OUR CALL: It's impossible to overlook a team planning to play Montee Ball and James White together in the backfield, given their combined 4,700 rushing yards the past two years. Wisconsin can ground and pound its way to the Big Ten title game if O'Brien makes a relatively smooth transition.

18. Virginia Tech

Supremely talented Thomas leads youthful Hokies

Junior QB Logan Thomas, as naturally gifted as they come with his defensive end body type (6-6, 262), can do a little bit of everything. He has electrifying ability and should elevate the offense in critical junctures until the supporting cast can be identified. The Hokies enter the season with a depth chart pocked with inexperience around Thomas; four offensive linemen, RB David Wilson, two wideouts and lead tight end were replaced from the 2011 group.

THE GOOD NEWS: Nine starters return from the Hokies' seventh-ranked defense, including the entire front seven, and depth everywhere. They're equipped to face almost any scheme and avoid mismatches. D-linemen James Gayle and Luther Maddy are game-changers.

THE BAD NEWS: The schedule is a minefield with five games against teams coming off of bye weeks and trips to Miami and Clemson. The Hokies almost always have a gem to carry the ball, but they enter the season unproven there and on the offensive line.

OUR CALL: Frank Beamer's postseason record has fallen into a 1-for-5 slump since 2004. But Thomas and a salty Bud Foster defense will tee up another good opportunity.

19. TEXAS

From back-of-pack to return of the Mack?

Texas was 8-5 in 2011, a respectable rebound from a losing 2010 season, but the Longhorns were outclassed by Oklahoma State, Baylor and OU in a season in which coach Mack Brown never found that easy-chair level of comfort he's been accustomed to. With a more seasoned roster and relative stability at quarterback, the Longhorns are contenders because they've rediscovered trademark strengths — big, powerful and deep along the offensive line and nasty on defense.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB David Ash is well ahead of Case McCoy at quarterback; plentiful options are available at running back and Ash can lean on big-play speed at receiver. Defensive coordinator Manny Diaz has a better feel for his personnel — and vice versa — in Year Two.

THE BAD NEWS: Depth thinner than a tortilla on defense could be problematic, and the difference between eight and 10 wins likely rides on the impact of the 2012 recruiting class. Brown's summertime stress might come from a kicking game that looked shaky in spring drills.

OUR CALL: UT doesn't need the next Vince Young or Colt McCoy. But if Ash is a capable manager, the Longhorns will survive tough times — like a three-game stretch against OSU, West Virginia and Oklahoma.

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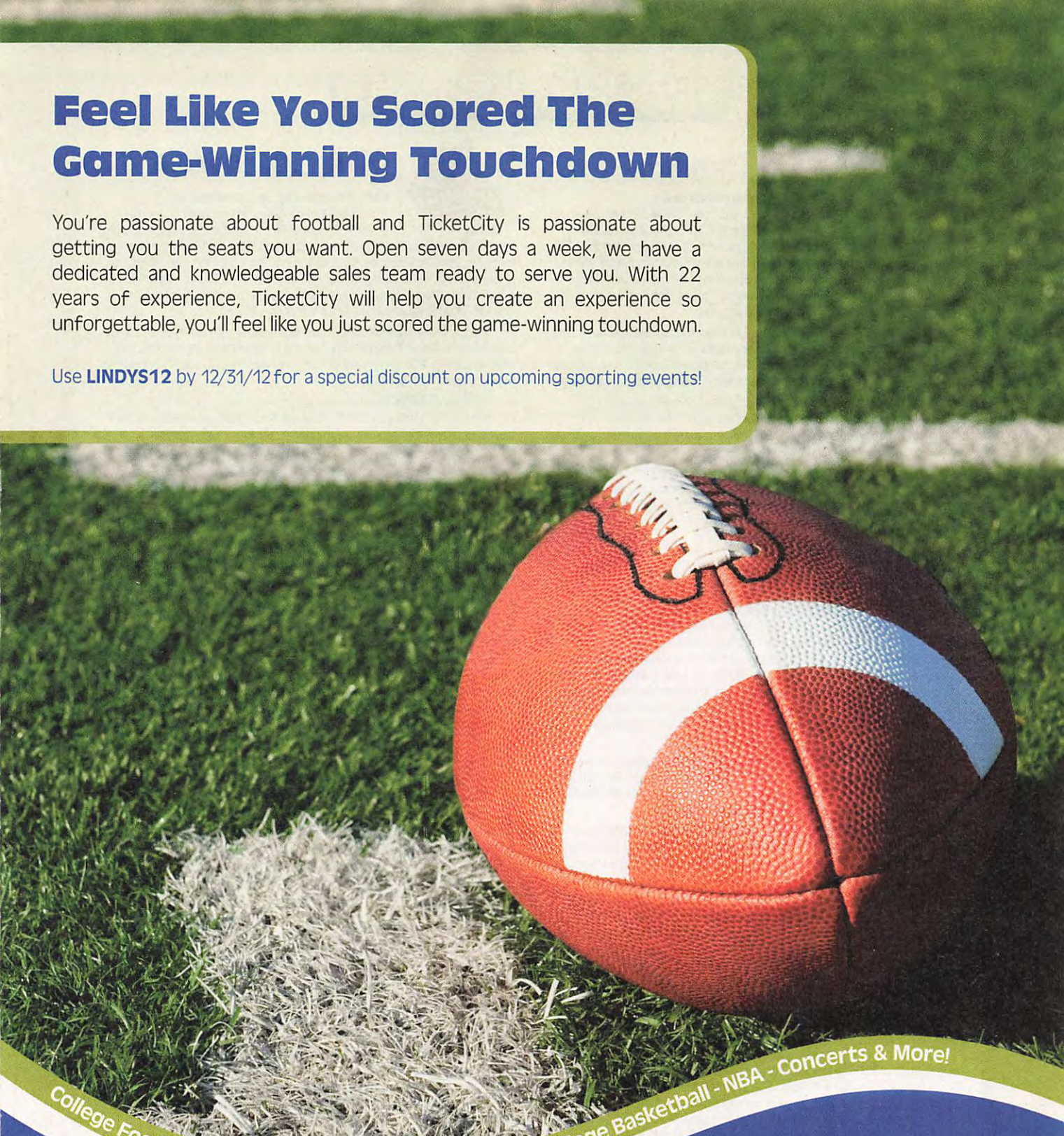

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20. Florida

If the QB position settles down ...

A 7-6 record won't earn Will Muschamp many celebratory chomps in The Swamp. Gainesville expects championships, not fringe bowl bids. To restore Florida atop the SEC pecking order, the defense-fueled coach has to figure out the offense. Which is to say: UF can't catch Alabama and LSU unless sophomore QBs Jacoby Brissett and Jeff Driskel exceed expectations. "I'm not really looking for style points. I'm looking for production," Muschamp said.

THE GOOD NEWS: Florida has a veteran defense and a stellar kicking game. A deep and talented stable of running backs led by Mike Gillislee can carry the offense until the quarterbacks get comfortable. New offensive coordinator Brent Pease wants a pedal-to-metal attack that keeps opponents guessing.

THE BAD NEWS: The defense suffered a blow with the torn ACL of junior DE Ronald Powell, but the Gators are hopeful he will return by October. LSU and Alabama don't fire blanks, and there's no guarding against shellshock for the fresh meat under center.

OUR CALL: Muschamp needs more fireworks to give the people what they come to see. The spring signs were mostly positive, but if one or both quarterbacks prove to be duds, Florida's title chances go up in smoke. Florida remains a rung (rungs?) below Alabama and LSU.

21. Stanford

Unlucky, but still dangerous

The two men most responsible for 31 victories over the past three seasons are gone — coach Jim Harbaugh left after the 2010 season, and two-time Heisman runner-up Andrew Luck became the first pick in the 2012 NFL Draft. David Shaw made a seamless transition last year to the head coach's headsets, retaining all of Harbaugh's brawny style on a campus known for brains. Luck has run out (OK, we can finally put those to rest), with sophomore Brett Nottingham or junior Josh Nunes poised to take over.

THE GOOD NEWS: Stanford was third nationally against the run last season, and that front seven, led by NT Terrence Stephens, DE Ben Gardner, LB Chase Thomas and LB Shayne Skov, is the team's strength. RB Stepfan Taylor fuels Stanford's tough-and-tricky rushing attack.

THE BAD NEWS: There is no getting around the drop-off at quarterback, which figures to result in more negative plays and pressure on the passing game, where the receivers are. ... Big-time OLs Jonathan Martin and David DeCastro are gone.

OUR CALL: Shaw signed the fifth-best class in the nation, according to Rivals.com, and this golden age of Stanford football isn't over. In 2012, the ground game and ferocious front seven keep Stanford relevant and dangerous.

22. Kansas State

Finding a way despite tiny margin for error

Doubt Bill Snyder at your own risk. At age 71, he's as savvy as ever. With a roster picked near the bottom of the Big 12 in 2011, he won 10 games. The Wildcats should have played in the Sugar Bowl. K-State is the anti-Big 12 in a league that is famous for its quarterbacks and offense. The Cats squeeze out enough offense (only 337 yards per game last year) and make enough big defensive plays to be pesky.

THE GOOD NEWS: A lot of folks considered QB Collin Klein the most valuable player in the country last year. Not the Heisman Trophy winner, just a guy who, if you took him off the roster, would be the difference between 10 wins and sitting at home during bowl season. LB Arthur Brown and CB Nigel Malone are rather studly.

THE BAD NEWS: The Wildcats probably need things to go just right. They won eight games last year by a touchdown or less. Klein is resilient, but if he is to stay upright, his protection must get better. Three starters are being replaced in the offensive line.

OUR CALL: Another 10-win season? Not quite. The secret to their success just might be pulling a repeat of 2011, when they were ninth in turnover margin.

23. LOUISVILLE

Best of a weak Big East good enough

Coach Charlie Strong knows respect is a reach given the recent collective product the Big East placed in the BCS, and he spent the offseason doing a Dangerfield act to Kentucky media, which he felt paid too much attention to the Final Four basketball team. Now that West Virginia calls the Big 12 home, Louisville has the muscle to win a conference title in Strong's third season with the core of the 2011 team back and QB Teddy Bridgewater leading a balanced offense.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Cardinals are loaded at running back, three sophomore wideouts bring big-play flair and Bridgewater, a sophomore, has all-league skills. Strong can't call enough blitzes and has the depth in the front seven to make that tempo work.

THE BAD NEWS: Louisville is again one of the youngest teams in the country after starting 11 true freshmen at some point last season. Another slow start is possible, especially if the O-line takes too much time to jell.

OUR CALL: The schedule reads like a queue of weak sisters. Don't expect the Cardinals to be relevant nationally — this *is* the Big East — but look for this to be a title season that trampolines Louisville into top 15 consideration in 2013.

24. Boise State

Adding a MWC trophy on their way out?

You gotta go with the odds — the Broncos have finished in the Associated Press Top 25 in eight of the past 10 years, and they would have been ranked in those other two seasons if they had made one more play in the final minute of bowl losses. This is, no doubt, a reloading year for the Program That Chris Petersen Will Never Leave, but it's a good time for a transition, with thorn-in-the-side TCU off to the Big 12 and Boise State revving the engines for the Big East in 2013.

THE GOOD NEWS: The last three seasons in which Boise State has used a first-time starting quarterback, the Broncos have gone 33-2, so let's not overstate the loss of Kellen Moore. (No pressure on you, junior Joe Southwick ... or whoever.) Broncos are good and deep at OL, WR and DB.

THE BAD NEWS: Boise State went 50-3 with Moore as the starting quarterback, so let's not minimize his departure. Standouts Tyrone Crawford, Shea McClellin and Billy Winn are gone from the defensive line, and Doug Martin leaves big shoes to fill at tailback.

OUR CALL: We'd expect one stumble somewhere after losing an opener at Michigan State, but that's it. Clear room in the trophy case for a MWC crown.

25. Nebraska

Tough schedule makes more wins unlikely

The Cornhuskers rooted around in their new conference last season, digging up a couple of highlights to go with three Big Ten losses. Anybody will take a win over Ohio State whenever they can get it, and knocking off Michigan State was a nice feather. The lopsided road losses to Wisconsin and Michigan were another matter. Nebraska knows what it has to do, but upward mobility depends on QB Taylor Martinez, whose spring footwork in the passing game was said to be much improved.

THE GOOD NEWS: Senior Rex Burkhead is one of the most reliable running backs in the country, and the Huskers have the depth to lighten his workload, if needed. Martinez has, at tantalizing times, looked like a Heisman candidate because of his superb running.

THE BAD NEWS: Nebraska's defense will miss the tackling of LB Lavonte David (133 stops) and the attitude of CB Alfonzo Dennard. The Big Ten scheduling misses are Indiana, Illinois and Purdue, expected to be among the league's worst teams.

OUR CALL: Nebraska went 9-4 last season and finished No. 24 in the AP poll after a Capital One Bowl loss to South Carolina. Sounds about right again this season.

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RATING THE TEAMS 1-124

1. LSU	SEC	1	6. Georgia	SEC	3	11. South Carolina	SEC	5	16. Oklahoma State	Big 12	4	21. Stanford	Pac-12	3
2. USC	Pac-12	1	7. Michigan	Big Ten	1	12. Michigan State	Big Ten	2	17. Wisconsin	Big Ten	4	22. Kansas State	Big 12	6
3. Alabama	SEC	2	8. Florida State	ACC	1	13. Clemson	ACC	2	18. Virginia Tech	ACC	3	23. Louisville	Big East	1
4. Oklahoma	Big 12	1	9. Arkansas	SEC	4	14. Ohio State	Big Ten	3	19. Texas	Big 12	5	24. Boise State	MWC	1
5. Oregon	Pac-12	2	10. West Virginia	Big 12	2	15. TCU	Big 12	3	20. Florida	SEC	6	25. Nebraska	Big Ten	5

No.	Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
26.	Utah	Pac-12	4	QB Jordan Wynn is back from injury as Utes begin second Pac season.
27.	Penn State	Big Ten	6	Critical year; O'Brien needs to show that Penn State is still Penn State.
28.	NC State	ACC	4	Great DBs, fine QB. Could challenge in Atlantic Divison after 8-5 season.
29.	Texas A&M	SEC	7	Big "if:" If the Aggies finish games stronger, they'll be fine, even in SEC.
30.	Missouri	SEC	8	Mizzou, QB James Franklin ready to challenge SEC with spread-option.
31.	Auburn	SEC	9	Maturing team should win at least eight games again.
32.	Washington	Pac-12	5	QB Keith Price, WR-KR Kasen Williams are supreme talents. Oh, that D ...
33.	Notre Dame	Ind	1	Who's the QB? Schedule makes it hard to win more than eight.
34.	Virginia	ACC	5	Coach Mike London has made major strides in two years in program.
35.	Georgia Tech	ACC	6	Paul Johnson is 21-11 in ACC in 4 years, second-best mark in league.
36.	Rutgers	Big East	2	Defense could be even better than last year's top 15 unit.
37.	Tennessee	SEC	10	After worst-ever 1-7 SEC record, Vols should rebound to win 7-8.
38.	UCF	CUSA	1	Loaded backfield helps push the Knights to top of Conference USA.
39.	BYU	Ind	2	Cougars try to take advantage of QB Riley Nelson's good wheels.
40.	Texas Tech	Big 12	7	Experienced group back, but gave up 256 pts in 5-game skid to end '11.
41.	Iowa	Big Ten	7	Hawkeyes have been just 4-4 in the Big Ten in each of past two years.
42.	Purdue	Big Ten	8	Veteran team could inch forward again after 7-6 season.
43.	Baylor	Big 12	8	With Mr. Heisman gone, it's back to scratching for any old bowl.
44.	Pittsburgh	Big East	3	The play of QB Tino Sunseri and a rebuilt defense are the keys.
45.	North Carolina	ACC	7	Larry Fedora needs to bring stability back to Heels.
46.	Mississippi State	SEC	11	QB Tyler Russell holds the key to making a move higher.
47.	Cincinnati	Big East	4	Bearcats could go far with QB Munchie Legaux at the helm.
48.	UCLA	Pac-12	6	An NFL retread in Los Angeles? Hey, this could work!
49.	Miami	ACC	8	Al Golden's contract runs through 2020; 2012 not one to remember.
50.	Cal	Pac-12	7	Progress from QB Zach Maynard would shake Bears from doldrums.
51.	Washington State	Pac-12	8	Welcome, Mike Leach. The era of the Cougs being boring is over.
52.	Vanderbilt	SEC	12	Competed and went to bowl in James Franklin's first season.
53.	SMU	CUSA	2	RB Zach Line returns after scoring 17 touchdowns last season.
54.	Wake Forest	ACC	9	Third-year starting QB Tanner Price helps keep Deacs competitive.
55.	Northwestern	Big Ten	9	Looking at something right around .500 for the third straight year.
56.	Connecticut	Big East	5	RB Lyle McCombs and experienced defense provide bowl hopes.
57.	South Florida	Big East	6	Led again by QB B.J. Daniels, Bulls try to shed second-half slump.
58.	Iowa State	Big 12	9	One of the nation's best linebacker tandems give reason to tune in.
59.	Arizona	Pac-12	9	RichRod motivated to prove Michigan flop wasn't all on him.
60.	Ole Miss	SEC	13	Getting buried in the league with 15 consecutive losses in SEC play.
61.	Kentucky	SEC	14	Had five-year bowl streak snapped in Joker Phillips' second year.
62.	Illinois	Big Ten	10	Tim Beckman takes over after the Zooker hit a brick wall at midseason.
63.	Arizona State	Pac-12	10	QBs new. Run game solid. Todd Graham ... just renting?
64.	Marshall	CUSA	3	Herd rallying in the right direction, should make back-to-back bowls.
65.	Oregon State	Pac-12	11	Rough patch (eight wins in two years) for respected coach Mike Riley.
66.	Tulsa	CUSA	4	Hurricane lost QB G.J. Kinne from team than went 7-1 in the league.
67.	Houston	CUSA	5	Kevin Sumlin didn't leave cupboard bare, but 13-1 ain't happening.
68.	Ohio	MAC	1	QB Tyler Tettleton back to lead the Bobcats, who went 10-4 in 2011.
69.	Duke	ACC	10	Not enough gimmies on the schedule for first bowl since 1994.
70.	Southern Miss	CUSA	6	First-year coach Ellis Johnson could be tripped up by QB issues.
71.	Boston College	ACC	11	Star power lacking: Luke Kuechly gone, Montel Harris ailing (knee).
72.	Louisiana Tech	WAC	1	Sonny Dykes has program on rise; clear favorite in watered-down WAC.
73.	FIU	Sun Belt	1	No more T.Y. Hilton, but looks like a bowl for third straight year.
74.	Minnesota	Big Ten	11	Check the sked: Gophers could be 4-0, surpassing 2011's win total.
75.	Syracuse	Big East	7	Re-addition of Temple to Big East keeps Orange out of last.

No.	Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
76.	Maryland	ACC	12	After 2-10 disaster, Terps young and inexperienced across the board.
77.	Colorado	Pac-12	12	New QB, new RB, standout WR Paul Richardson tore ACL in spring.
78.	Fresno State	MWC	2	Has league's best run-pass combination as it moves to MWC.
79.	Wyoming	MWC	3	Sophomore QB Brett Smith is a keeper; Pokes went 8-5 last season.
80.	Navy	Ind	3	Mids try to get back into bowl biz after seven-year streak snapped.
81.	San Diego State	MWC	4	Aztecs will have to reload on offense before 2013 move to Big East.
82.	Utah State	WAC	2	Will carry over momentum from strong finish (plus bowl) to 2011.
83.	Nevada	MWC	5	Pack went 4-1 last season against current members of the MWC.
84.	Kent State	MAC	2	Lots of experience is a positive ...if it means woeful offense gets better.
85.	Western Michigan	MAC	3	Having QB Alex Carder is a good start, but questions abound on D.
86.	Air Force	MWC	6	Falcons try for sixth straight bowl with new key players in backfield.
87.	Indiana	Big Ten	12	Kevin Wilson's only win in debut season came vs. South Carolina State.
88.	Hawaii	MWC	7	At long last, Norm Chow is a head coach for the first time.
89.	Kansas	Big 12	10	And so begins the second act of Charlie Weis' coaching career.
90.	Arkansas State	Sun Belt	2	Gus Malzahn brings his spead offense to first head coaching gig.
91.	Northern Illinois	MAC	4	Key personnel move: Jordan Lynch replaces QB Chandler Harnisch.
92.	San Jose State	WAC	3	With decent QB play (a huge "if") Spartans could be bowl-bound.
93.	Colorado State	MWC	8	Hiring head coach Jim McElwain (Alabama OC) is a good start.
94.	La.-Monroe	Sun Belt	3	Getting close to a "win-or-else" situation for coach Todd Berry.
95.	Toledo	MAC	5	Matt Campbell, at 32, becomes the youngest coach in the FBS.
96.	Louisiana	Sun Belt	4	Mark Hudspeth led team to New Orleans Bowl win in first season.
97.	New Mexico State	WAC	4	Aggies benefit from WAC departures of Nevada, Hawaii, Fresno State.
98.	Troy	Sun Belt	5	Offense should be better ... defense, well, maybe not.
99.	Western Kentucky	Sun Belt	6	Taking a small step back after last year's surprising 7-5 run.
100.	Ball State	MAC	6	A 6-6 season rated as a surprise in coach Pete Lembo's first year.
101.	North Texas	Sun Belt	7	Not looking like Mean Green's first winning season since 2004.
102.	Idaho	WAC	5	Vandals lost too much on both lines to keep pace with WAC leaders.
103.	Middle Tennessee	Sun Belt	8	Must come together on D for an outside shot at breaking even.
104.	Miami (Ohio)	MAC	7	Followed up 2010 MAC title with a plunge to 4-8 overall.
105.	Army	Ind	4	Coach Rich Ellerson looking for first win vs. rivals Navy, Air Force (0-6).
106.	Temple	Big East	8	Bad timing: Rebuilding year comes as Owls move back into Big East.
107.	Tulane	CUSA	7	Curtis Johnson takes over a team that is 31-76 in the past nine years.
108.	East Carolina	CUSA	8	Losing QB Dominique Davis tough for a team that was 5-7 a year ago.
109.	Bowling Green	MAC	8	QB Matt Schilz threw for 3,024 yards and 28 touchdowns last year.
110.	Rice	CUSA	9	Defense has been too shaky to make a move in Conference USA.
111.	UTEP	CUSA	10	Tough schedule has Miners headed to seventh losing season in a row.
112.	Buffalo	MAC	9	Branden Oliver rushed for 1,395 yards last season.
113.	Florida Atlantic	Sun Belt	9	Carl Pelini second FAU coach ever, replacing Howard Schnellenberger.
114.	UAB	CUSA	11	Hiring of Garrick McGee creates a little buzz around the Blazers.
115.	Akron	MAC	10	Terry Bowden is a bold hire for a program that had little left to lose.
116.	Eastern Michigan	MAC	11	Alex Gillett is most experienced QB in the MAC.
117.	Central Michigan	MAC	12	It's been back-to-back 3-9 campaigns for the Chippewas.
118.	UNLV	MWC	9	Bobby Hauck is 4-21 in two seasons, with no road victories.
119.	Memphis	CUSA	12	Bar set low for Justin Fuente; predecessor Larry Porter was 3-21.
120.	New Mexico	MWC	10	Bob Davie jumped from the ESPN booth into a fine mess.
121.	South Alabama	Sun Belt	10	It's the final year of the Jags' transition to the FBS.
122.	Texas State	WAC	6	Dennis Franchione starting second year of second tour in San Marcos.
123.	UMass	MAC	13	Basically, a .500-level FCS program for the past four seasons.
124.	UT-San Antonio	WAC	7	Potential here. Roadrunners will move to C-USA after year in WAC.

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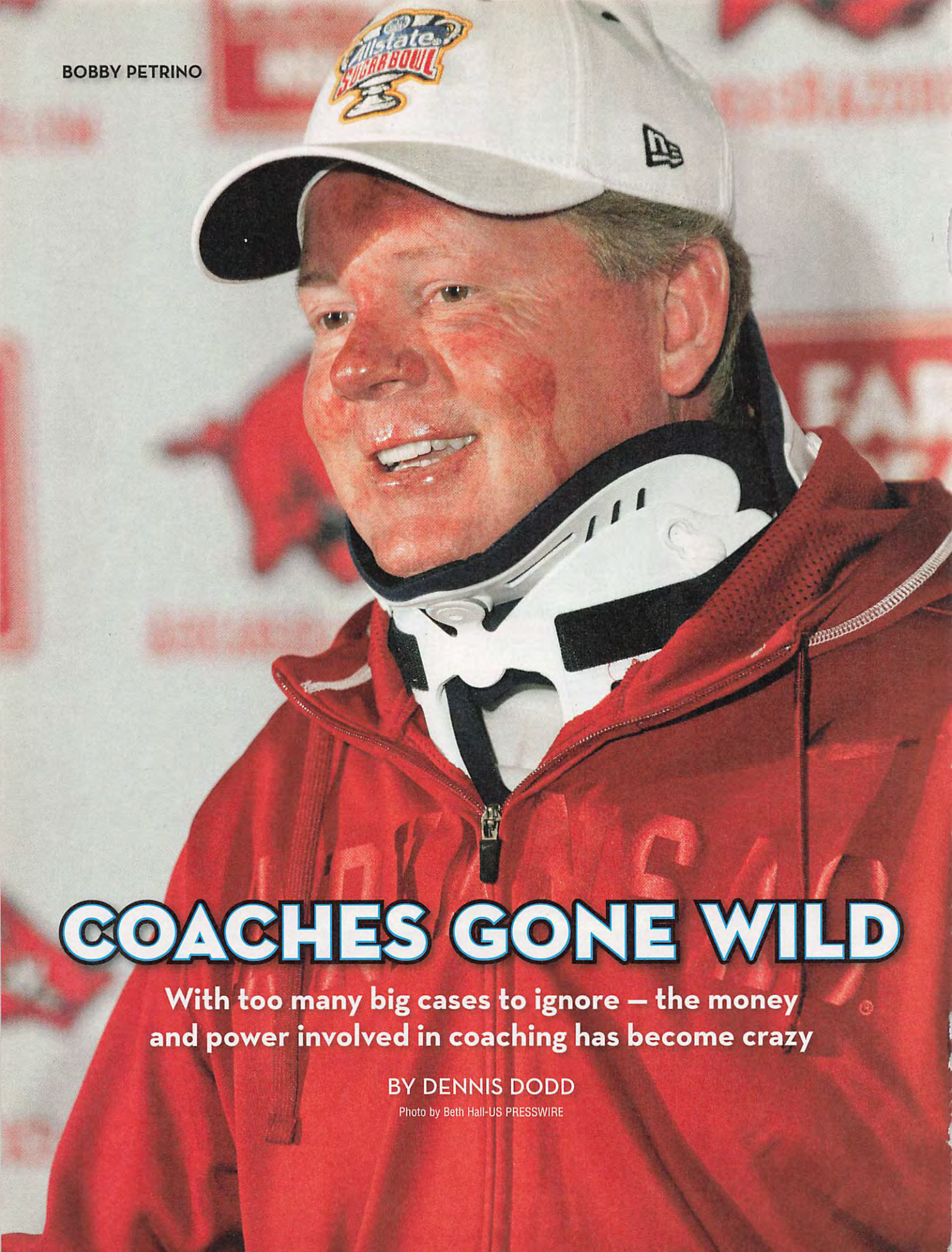


COACHES GONE WILD

With too many big cases to ignore – the money and power involved in coaching has become crazy

BY DENNIS DODD

Photo by Beth Hall-US PRESSWIRE

It has not been a proud run for a significant slice of the coaching profession, so forgive us if we leave any names out.

Joe Paterno? A sad and sudden fall from grace. Now, tragically, gone.

Butch Davis? Fired at North Carolina.

Urban Meyer? A new job — and perhaps a new reputation.

Jim Tressel? He's *soooo* 2011.

There *are* deadlines, you know, so we offer this disclaimer: The dizzying pace of coaches gone wild means that Bobby Petrino may even have his next job by the time you read this.

Coaches' conduct has not only become a narrative for the 2012 season, it has been the main talking point in the industry for a while. Blame whatever and whomever.

- The money? In the offseason, Alabama's Nick Saban became the first $6 million coach (at least for a portion of his contract). That means, by the way, that he's making in salary roughly *three times* the amount of money that the school pays for the complete scholarship package (tuition, room, board, books, etc.) of all 85 players on scholarship.
- The power? Petrino apparently felt he was titanium. One of the state's highest-paid employees rode helmetless on a motorcycle with a woman half his age who was not his wife. And that's the tasteful part of the story.
- Maybe we're all to blame. As long as we give our undying adoration to mere mortals, we shouldn't be surprised. But, Good Lord, the variety of the misconduct has been stunning. There were NCAA violations at North Carolina and Ohio State, but Davis was never named in the NCAA report on the Tar Heels. Tressel *was* the central figure in Ohio State getting a bowl ban in 2012.
- Years of neglect by coaches and administrators may have led to Miami being on the NCAA chopping block. A weasely jock sniffer named Nevin Shapiro allegedly showered players with cash, gifts and the South Beach night life. Shapiro was so influential that he once reportedly confronted Miami's compliance director in the press box. And he *still* was allowed to be around the team.

But how do you compare that with whatever role Paterno had in the Jerry Sandusky scandal?

"I think the Paterno thing and Tressel had a profound impact on this country," said Jack Stark, a clinical psychologist out of Nebraska with a thriving sports practice. "It changed college presidents, ADs and boards of directors who are saying, 'I don't care who this guy is. We cannot (let him) take the program down.'"

Since May 2011, those two national championship coaches departed in shame, along with a highly respected president (Penn State's Graham Spanier) and his athletic director (Tim Curley, who was placed on administrative leave). How quickly things change. Spanier told CBSSports.com last summer that cheating in college football was "about as bad as it's been in the modern era."

Turns out the breaking of NCAA rules wasn't his biggest concern.

"It's so crazy that this one (freakin') pervert son of a bitch can bring down a university," Paul Levine said of Sandusky. Levine, a Southern California-based author and screenwriter, became devoted to Paterno as a Penn State student in the 1960s.

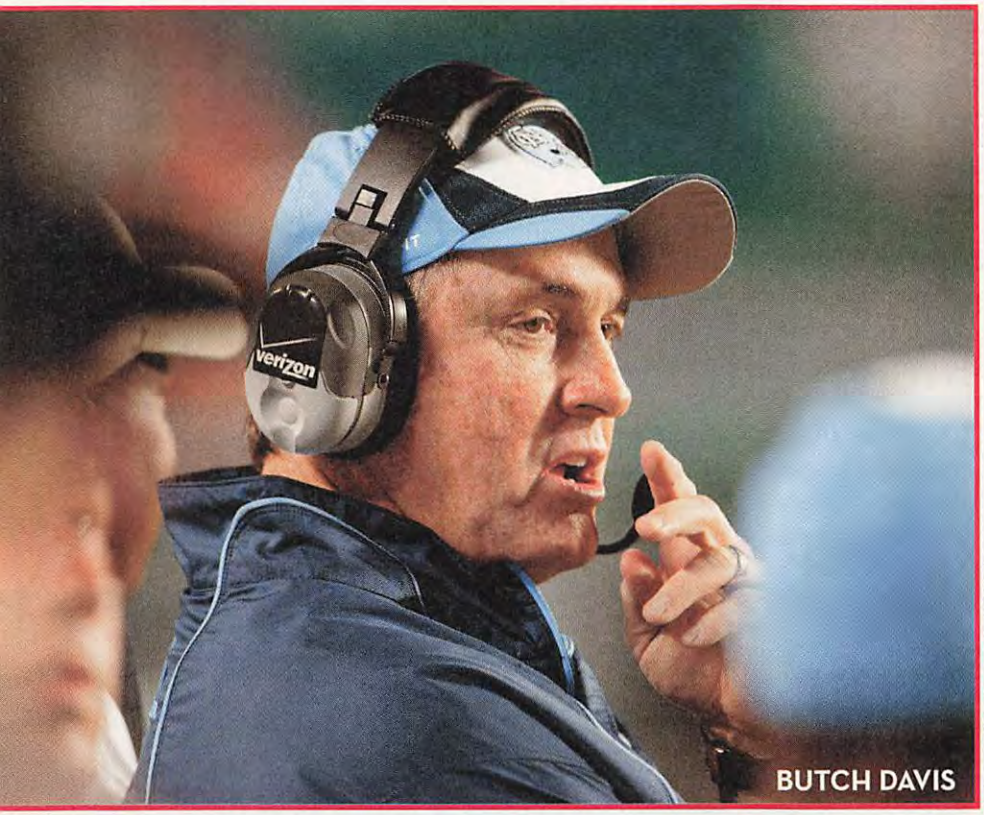
"I viewed him then," Levine said, "as a

"I'm deeply worried about football ... if we don't fix some of the problems in football, in five years it will be as bad as basketball."

– Former Penn State president Graham Spanier, months before the Jerry Sandusky case became public

Photo by Kirby Lee-Image of Sport-US PRESSWIRE

CHIP KELLY



BUTCH DAVIS

Photo by Jonathan Brownfield-US PRESSWIRE

"I was there when Woody Hayes punched that guy in the Gator Bowl. When all is said and done, it is a chapter in the book – it's not *the* book."

– Glen Mason, longtime coach, now Big Ten Network analyst

towering figure."

But towering figures are being toppled around the country. Where tradition, loyalty and discipline were once considered the greatest virtues of the profession, we have seen win-at-all-costs override everything else. There *is* nothing else.

In the spring, Petrino was the latest coach to run his career into a ditch. (OK, pun intended.)

No one knows when his profession is going to be tamed. The same organization (American Football Coaches Association) that urged the NCAA to adopt tougher penalties for rulebook cheating can't account for the marital sort.

Does it matter off the field? Should it matter? There was a time when we were disgusted that Lane Kiffin had piled up a half dozen secondary violations at Tennessee.

Something has changed for the worse. What once was shocking — Woody Hayes punching a Clemson linebacker — doesn't qualify in modern times. While Hayes "only" lost his temper ... *The Sporting News* said in an offseason story that Meyer lost control of his team during a magical run at Florida.

"Over the last two years he was there," one former player told the publication, "the players had taken complete control of the team."

The result was not only 30 run-ins with the law over six years by Florida players, but also two national championships.

So where's the problem? In one way or another, all the coaches mentioned in this story delivered. Some spectacularly.

While Chip Kelly hadn't been formally charged by the NCAA as of late April, the recruiting practices of Oregon's coach are open to question. His program was under investigation by the NCAA. At the least, we can all agree that paying $25,000 to a third-party "evaluator" (Willie Lyles) seems like a bit much, and — uh, providing NCAA statements that, shall we say, can be easily misinterpreted — is not exactly in the spirit of compliance.

Davis led Miami out of a mid-1990s probation and laid the recruiting foundation for the Hurricanes' 2001 national championship. If you're willing to look past since-vacated wins in 2008 and 2009 at North Carolina, Davis led the Tar Heels to their most sustained success since Mack Brown. That was before academic fraud, South Beach partying, and extra benefits were discovered by the NCAA.

Larry Fedora now takes over in a low-pressure job in the underachieving ACC. Like Meyer, his program is also banned from a bowl in 2012.

Meyer didn't know about the ban until the NCAA weighed in 22 days after Ohio State hired him in December. "That was a shot," he said.

Consider it a gift from The Vest that keeps on giving.

Bill O'Brien takes over at Penn State, a fresh face at a place that has been comfortable with Paterno's comforting, coke-bottle-rimmed, craggy mug for decades. It's about more than turning around a program at Penn State. It's about changing the groupthink that allowed someone like Sandusky to operate in the shadows for years.

Maybe that's why Penn State intentionally didn't hire an insider. The chain link fence that walled off Happy Valley from the world needs to be torn

down. Glen Mason has considered all this. He was one of Paterno's closest friends. He also played and coached for Woody.

"I was there when Woody Hayes punched that guy in the Gator Bowl," said Mason, now an analyst with the Big Ten Network. "When all is said and done, it is a chapter in the book — it's not *the* book."

For Woody. For the profession. We can only hope. For now, Petrino's salvation is that he didn't cheat according to the 434-page NCAA Manual, the industry's gospel according to Mark (Emmert).

Character issues alone usually don't keep a fired coach down for long. The key point, according to an attorney who has represented coaches in the past, is, "There weren't any NCAA violations."

Holding coaches to the same standard of discipline asked of their players is a good place to start. Who knew that Arkansas athletic director Jeff Long would qualify as Man of the Year material for merely doing the right thing?

The right thing apparently went out of style a long time ago. In the 75-year history of the wire service era, only two schools with national championships have *never* had an NCAA major violation in football: BYU and Penn State.

"That's kind of amazing to me if that's the case," BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said, "because it doesn't bode well."

The last four BCS title game participants — Auburn, Oregon, LSU, Alabama — have either been on probation, are about to be investigated or already are under investigation by the NCAA. Almost half of the current FBS schools (56) have committed at least one major violation in football since 1987. Since that year, there has been an average of three such cases nationally per year.

Multiple champions of the past 20 years have been named Miami, USC, Florida, Alabama and LSU ... none of which would need an introduction to the members of the NCAA compliance committee.

The "everybody else does it," defense has simply become accepted as the norm, and the only issue is whose hand will be caught in the cookie jar next. And that's just with the NCAA violations.

"I'm deeply worried about football," Spanier said last summer before the walls fell in on him and his university. "I believe if we don't fix some of the problems in football, in five years it will be as bad as basketball."

That's about as bad a thing as you can say about college football at the moment. The 2011 Final Four featured two coaches who had vacated tournament appearances in the same *year* — John Calipari and Jim Calhoun in 1996.

UConn is ineligible for the 2013 tournament, a victim of new, toughened standards in the Academic Progress Rate. North Carolina and Ohio State are already there with a postseason ban in football for their own misdeeds. Emmert's stated purpose since he took office two years ago was to wipe out the incentive to cheat.

He's got some work to do.

"The reward outweighs the risk," said Dave Ridpath, an NCAA compliance expert and assistant professor of Sports Administration at Ohio University. "Most people will tell you that USC lost their BCS championship (in the Reggie Bush case). At the end, I wonder if people really care."

"The reward outweighs the risk. Most people will tell you that USC lost their BCS championship (in the Reggie Bush case). At the end, I wonder if people really care."

– Dave Ridpath, NCAA compliance expert and assistant professor of Sports Administration at Ohio University

URBAN MEYER

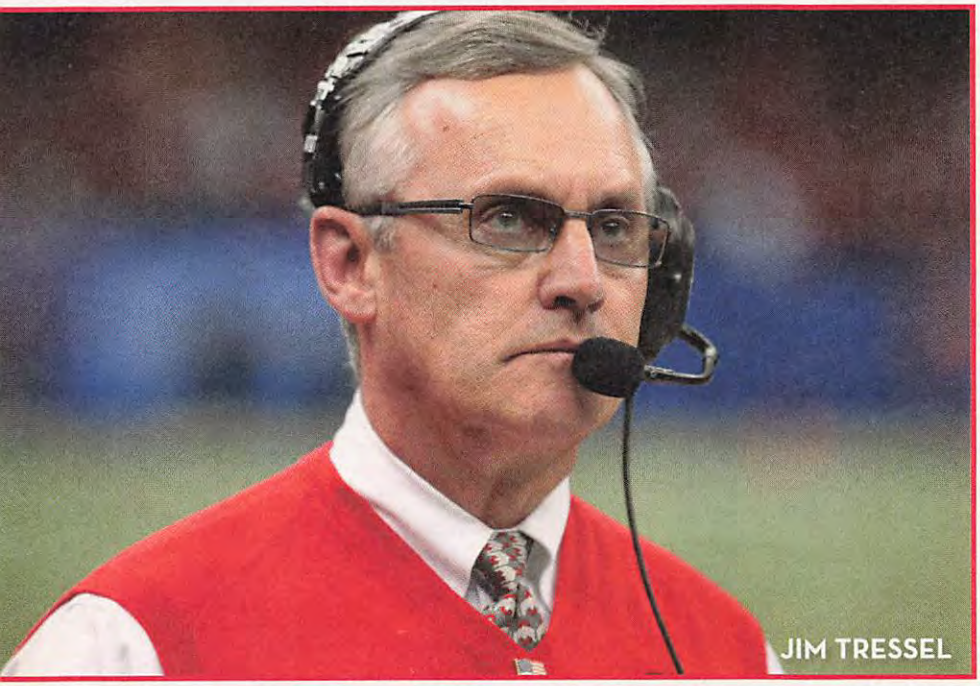
Photo by Greg Bartram-US PRESSWIRE

JOE PATERNO

Photo by Rob Christy-US PRESSWIRE

"The Paterno thing and Tressel had a profound impact on this country. It changed college presidents, ADs and boards of directors who are saying, 'I don't care who this guy is. We cannot (let him) take the program down.'"

— Jack Stark, sports psychologist



JIM TRESSEL

Photo by Matthew Emmons-US PRESSWIRE

Petrino's baggage going forward includes a morally ambiguous record of covering up and lying, whether it was on a tarmac talking to Auburn officials or walking out on the Atlanta Falcons. Throw in the Arkansas misdeeds and you would think that's enough to keep Petrino from *ever* being a head coach at the BCS level again.

"I think it's going to take him a very long time," said Stark, who has spent 35 years in the profession. "He's done two things. He burned his bridges pretty good at the pro level in the middle of the season, which is unheard of. There is a lot of anger there at the pro level.

"At the collegiate level ... the thing that distinguished him is he repeatedly lied. That seems to be the new line in the sand for athletic directors."

That's a line that puts ADs, coaches and college sports on trial after the latest "worse than ..." scandal. If Petrino is hired again at the college level, then what are his employers saying about his conduct? What does it say about *their* values?

Probably that winning trumps most everything, which confirms that exactly nothing is new.

Petrino remains one of most innovative offensive minds in the country. He took a program that had been in the middle of the SEC and elevated it to national championship contention last season. The Hogs were ranked No. 3 in the BCS going into the last week of the season.

It may be as simple as the value of the sport itself. A disgraced Petrino would be hotter — excuse that adjective — than any other sport's disgraced coach. Disgrace suddenly becomes relative when an athletic department's finances are involved. As football goes, so goes that department. Under Petrino, Arkansas had equaled its best two-year run (21 wins) in school history.

Coaches will be hired again for the same reason Petrino's return can't be discounted. They win. That might be all Coach P needs.

Here's what might make Petrino's conduct harder to overlook: There's no argument about his culpability. It was

self-inflicted and terrible.

That motorcycle passenger, Jessica Dorrell, somehow landed a job in the football office that was coveted by 158 other applicants. She was paid by Petrino — $20,000, according to school officials — beyond her $55,000 salary.

Petrino apparently didn't care about using a private cell phone either. A simple records request revealed thousands of calls and texts to Dorrell since September. Either Petrino wanted to get caught or thought he was too powerful to be fired if he ever did.

Emotional scars do heal — this *is* the land of second chances — and there has to be an AD/president somewhere who is going to be desperate enough to win.

Stark sees those character flaws each day. He has worked with NASCAR drivers who can't walk into a restaurant without being swarmed, and CEOs who handle billion-dollar corporations. In an offshoot of his practice, he also counsels football coaches around the country. There was so much demand that at one point he had to stop taking clients.

"I worked with Tom Osborne for 25 years," Stark said. "I bet he always felt that he was a year away from getting fired if he went 6-6."

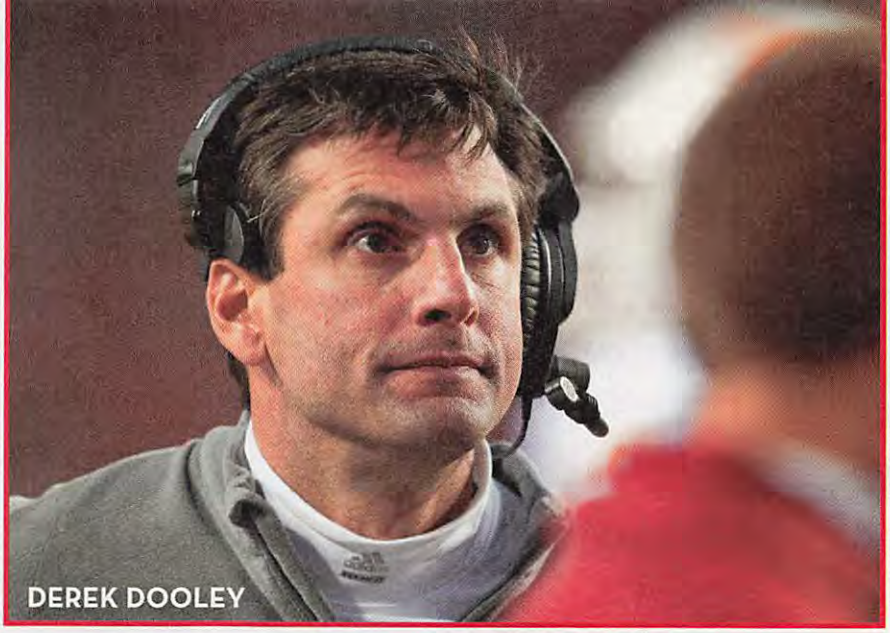
There is a difference, though, between insecurity and Biblical-proportion indiscretion.

There are also worse Monday-morning analyses of Petrino's future than Tim Brando's.

"He going to have to pull the PR coup of a lifetime by throwing himself on the Dr. Phils of the world," said the national radio host and CBS analyst. "He is going to have to go on daytime TV, maybe follow up with a book. If he doesn't have handlers, he better get them. If he does it the right way, he comes back full bore."

Of course, most of Hog Nation could give two snorts what happens next to Petrino. His future remains a national case study — until the next coach goes wild.

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSSports.com covering national college football.



DEREK DOOLEY

Photo by Beth Hall-US PRESSWIRE

HOT SEAT COACHES

Some coaches get fired the old-fashioned way — by not winning enough. Here is a look at five who need to win now, or they and the coaches they hired will join the unemployment line:

1. DEREK DOOLEY, TENNESSEE – Dooley is 11-14 in two seasons and is trying to avoid the first three-year stretch of losing seasons in Knoxville in more than 100 years. **PREDICTION:** A revamped coaching staff can coax at least seven wins out of this bunch, but none of the victories figure to resonate. Vol Nation will still be itching for change.

2. FRANK SPAZIANI, BOSTON COLLEGE – Always fighting a battle for relevancy within its own city, Boston College has had declining victory totals in Spaziani's three seasons, including last year's 4-8 mark that snapped a 12-year bowl streak. **PREDICTION:** Spaz won't get to the final year of a five-year plan.

3. RANDY EDSALL, MARYLAND – The second-year Terps coach is already trying to stay afloat after a 2-10 season, the transfers of about two dozen players (bye, bye Danny O'Brien) and a tepid endorsement from his athletic director in the offseason. **PREDICTION:** The cash-strapped Terps can't afford to make a change so soon.

4. TOMMY TUBERVILLE, TEXAS TECH – Tuberville arrived before the 2010 season amid the tempest of Mike Leach's dismissal, so that wasn't easy, and he has done little to convert the pro-Pirate crowd after compiling a 13-12 record and off-field drama. **PREDICTION:** A veteran team cures some of the woes. Patience prevails for a year.

5. JEFF TEDFORD, CAL – He had the Golden Bears on USC's heels for a stretch, but those days are gone, and another middlin' finish is projected for this season. Cal's 12-15 conference record the past three years suggests the magic is gone after 10 years on the job. **PREDICTION:** The program needs a major shot in the arm to pay for the renovated Memorial Stadium ... and it will get one with a new coach touting a national image.

— Anthony Gimino

REBOOT

WHEN THE BIG 12 HAS 10, AND THE BIG TEN HAS 12, AND THE BIG EAST HEADS TO SAN DIEGO ...

BY DENNIS DODD

Call it the Great Reboot.

Usually, that's the thing you do to your computer when the screen freezes. Too much information causes overload. Hit that cursed button. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't. That's why they put customer support overseas that keeps you on hold for three hours.

In 2012, the Great Reboot projects the curse of the digital age to the condition of college football.

Rebirth, reset, whatever.

There has been too much overload lately. At the very least, the hard drive needs a good defragmenting. Or even debugging.

It seems like the entire sport is rebooting itself in 2012. What's old is new.

The hottest topic of the offseason was the 11 FBS commissioners (plus Notre Dame) trying to come up with a new postseason model that would begin in 2014. Sorta reformatting the drive and starting from scratch? Not quite.

There are no new ideas, just new buzz words and revenue sharing models to frame those old ideas.

Conference realignment already had a chokehold on the game. There's a game show out there somewhere just waiting for the title: "Who's In That League?" The Big East spent the offseason reconfiguring itself into what will eventually be a four time-zone league in 2015.

In 2014, Boise State and San Diego State join what is still apparently going to be called the Big East Conference. East of what, we're not sure. *Big Country*, anyone? Or the Big Frequent Fliers Conference?

In the meantime, the SEC added a team from the Midwest (Missouri) and a team from the Southwest (Texas A&M).

What's newest is the Pac-12, as it debuts a network, cashes in on a lucrative rights deal and continues to break in six new coaches

since the beginning of 2010.

Change, of course, isn't always good. Twenty-seven programs are starting over with new coaches. In the past year, Ohio State and Arkansas sent coaches packing with a combined nine BCS bowls on their resumes. Not that they had much choice, mind you.

The Great Reboot also has descended into the absurd. Try to name a school that *hasn't* attempted a big splash in the offseason — successful or not — by debuting new uniforms. Seems highlighter yellow jerseys are replacing red zone defense as the most important component of a program.

The Big 12 — which is down to 10 — has lost four teams in the past two years. It added West Virginia and TCU beginning this season to get back up to 10. Never mind that the Mountaineers' closest Big 12 foe is in Iowa.

Speaking of realignment, for 83 years, Cal's Memorial Stadium has rested on the Hayward Fault, one of the most active earthquake zones in the world. Beginning this year it rests more comfortably. The historic stadium has been retro-fitted to be quake-proof.

But shaky (as in finances) continues to be the operative word in Berkeley. Now if Jeff Tedford can only find a quarterback.

The best place to start on the field is the SEC. Why not? The league has won six consecutive national championships. Alabama and LSU both start where they finished, somewhere in the top five. In Tuscaloosa, the more things change, the more they stay Saban.

That crystal football has ended up at Alabama two of the past three years and already they need a new one. The father of a player knocked over the trophy and broke it, causing one of the biggest stirs of the spring.

That's motivation enough for Nick Saban to go out and win a third crystal football in four years. He loses a Heisman finalist (Trent Richardson), an offensive coordinator (Jim McElwain left for Colorado State) and the usual raft of NFL draftees. The directive hasn't changed. Not one minute of rest.

"I understand that it's only human nature to be satisfied with success," Saban told CBSSports.com. "The good news is that this team doesn't seem to have as much of a hangover (as the 2010 team). But I know this is something we're going to have to hammer home into their heads every day."

Like most of last season, though, Bama might not be considered the best team in its own league. LSU actually gets better at quarterback. Zach Mettenberger takes over for the sometimes-dependable Jordan Jefferson. He'll hand off to a stable of running backs that goes five deep.

The defense returns a Heisman finalist in Tryann Mathieu, and a philosopher — the always chatty defensive end Sam Montgomery. The Tigers are also trying to figure out what the hell happened after the 21-0 skunking in the second Alabama meeting that also happened to be the BCS Championship Game.

"You still hear it now. Our kids still hear it now about the game," offensive coordinator Greg Studrawa said. "Because everybody was so fired up after a wonderful season, that when it ends like that, that's what they focus on. Not the 13 wins, not how great it was up to that point.

"Now you get a chance for redemption."

Speaking of redemption, Rich Rodriguez is at his second job since leaving West Virginia. You may recall that the Michigan thing didn't quite work out. At Arizona, he is remade, redeemed and — yes — rebooted. Athletic director Greg Byrne conducted a national search and found the anti-Mike Stoops. Rich is an offensive guy. Rich is personable. Rich also trashed the effort of Stoops' former players — while renting Stoops' house in the offseason.

RichRod found 300-pound linemen who couldn't bench their weight. He found defensive backs who couldn't put up 240.

"My point is, what have you been doing?" Rodriguez said. "You cheated the program,a but you also cheated yourself."

Speaking of starting over, Mike Leach finally found work. He had been out of coaching since December 2009, and we were beginning to wonder if active lawsuits against Texas Tech and ESPN were going to impact his future. It was only a matter of time, even if that time lasted almost two years.

Washington State is a heck of a comfort zone. Call it Lubbock North. Out of the way and, currently, out of mind. But Leach in Pullman has a clean slate, a loyal and capable AD and a president who doesn't meddle.

"A lot of schools wanted him," athletic director Bill Moos said. "He wanted us."

The same can be said of Urban Meyer. The best name remaining on the board in late November ended a brief sabbatical when he got the Ohio State gig.

In a flash, the mercurial former Florida coach decided to leave his family to devote more time to football. Or something like that. If Meyer was looking to rest, recover and retool, it didn't take very long for him to do it. His time away from football lasted considerably less than a year when you remember he was an ESPN analyst before taking the Buckeyes' job.

Photo by John Biever /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

BCS National Championship: Alabama's Trent Richardson holding up AFCA The Coaches' Trophy after winning the BCS title game vs LSU at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

Arkansas was on its best two-year run in more than 40 years until Bobby Petrino decided to take a Sunday Harley ride with his mistress on — wait for it — April Fool's Day. The Hogs, though, aren't the Tide. As it settled on John L. Smith as a one-year interim, it was clear the program remained in a fragile state despite 21 victories and two major bowls in the past two seasons.

Crash a crystal trophy? Arkansas would kill for the chance.

"You described it perfectly," said Regina Gardner-Morgan, mother of Arkansas tailback Knile Davis. "Bobby Petrino has done so many things to work up to this point. He has that team just right and they're just about to go over the hill. Then something like this happens."

No worries, Hogs. Hit the button. This is your year, too, if you believe in the Great Reboot of 2012.

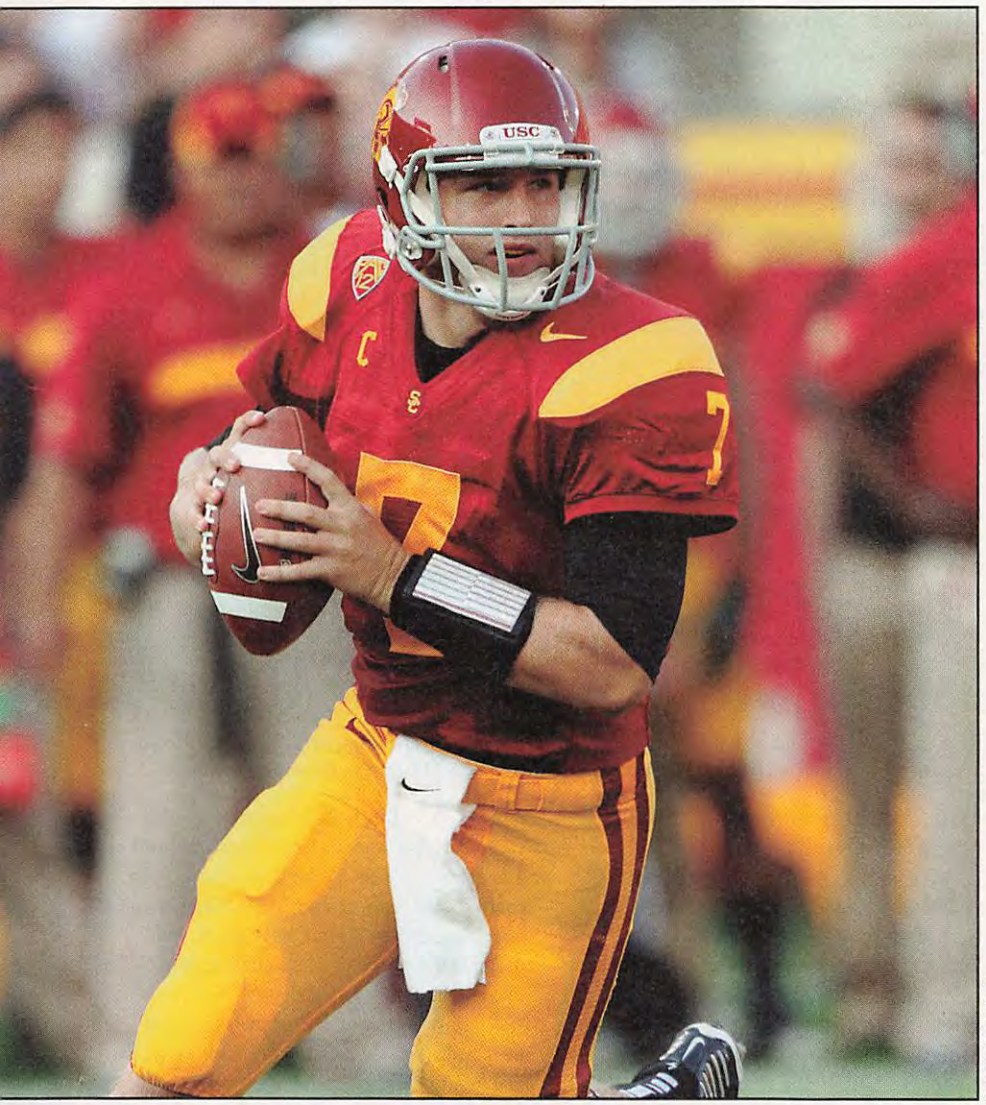


Photo by Steve Beyer

Barkley isn't finished making memories at USC

By Scott Wolf

It is not enough for USC quarterback Matt Barkley to be the Heisman Trophy frontrunner and potential No. 1 NFL draft pick. At the same time he gets hyped for a record-setting senior season, he's also looking to have a lot of fun.

When Barkley decided to return to USC he did not merely call coach Lane Kiffin. He orchestrated a dramatic moment, asking Kiffin to drive to his house just before Christmas.

After Kiffin walked in the house, Barkley handed him a handmade cardboard ornament that showed the pair embracing after the USC-Colorado game, where the star quarterback set the Trojans' single-game record for touchdown passes. A caption read, "2011 Great Memories."

The ornament barely impressed a cynical Kiffin, who said, "Cool ornament, Matt."

But Barkley, *Lindy's* Offensive Player of the Year, told Kiffin to turn it over and read another caption: "One more year. To the memories next year."

"I tried to be all sad," Barkley said of the way he was trying to fool Kiffin. "But I can't hold a straight face."

Or as Kiffin says, "Matt can't lie."

Barkley is one of the most driven and competitive athletes to play for USC in the past 15 years, but that is complemented by a boyish nature that does anything for a smile.

"I really did want him to stay," said his sister, Lainy, who also attends USC. "It's so fun being on campus with him."

Barkley's honesty and good nature (and his strong arm) are reasons USC feels so positive about its quest for a national title. And even he will not deny it.

"Looking at the team we have, it's definitely something special," Barkley said. "We're on the ride."

That is the type of comment that makes Kiffin wince because he likes to say, "You won't hear us talking about a national championship."

Barkley's teammates, however, love his directness.

"Matt always kept us energized because he is positive," former USC tailback Marc Tyler said. "He knew how to motivate us and willed us to win during games last season."

Being a motivator is a natural talent for Barkley, who always finds ways to keep things fresh and interesting.

Barkley took 15 of his teammates on a trip to Haiti to help build homes, a trip that illustrated Barkley's penchant for finding ways to make his teammates bond. It is a stark contrast to the last quarterback with this much hype at USC (Matt Leinart), who avoided much interaction with his teammates during his senior year.

"I've never been out of the country," USC defensive end Devon Ken-

nard said. "I think it was a great idea by Matt."

It is not an unusual trip for Barkley. After his sophomore year, with no bowl game because of NCAA sanctions, he went to Nigeria with his family to help the needy.

Going to Haiti appealed to Barkley more than being an NFL rookie. He knew he was going to be a top 10 draft choice but said, "I was meant to be at USC."

By the end of this season, Barkley appears to be meant to be USC's leader in career passing and total offense. He also will be the school's first three-time captain.

"He's got a chance to blow all these school records out of the water," Kiffin said.

USC will open its new $100-million football center this year named after legendary coach John McKay, but the reverence for Barkley already led to another possible title.

"The Matt Barkley Center sounds better," USC athletic director Pat Haden joked.

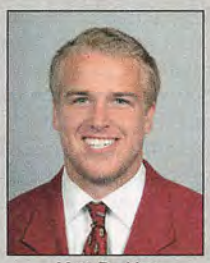
Barkley would turn down that offer. He might enjoy being in the spotlight, but dislikes over-the-top presentations. When he announced his return to USC, he was surprised the school arranged for the school band, song girls and the Heisman trophies flanking him inside Heritage Hall.

"That's not me," Barkley said. "That's not what I'm about. I just didn't want that image of myself. Hopefully, we'll add another (Heisman Trophy) here later, but as of now, we have some work to do first."

What Barkley wants is to win and go to a bowl game, preferably the BCS title game. He endured the Trojans' two-year bowl ban and wants his senior year to make up for NCAA sanctions.

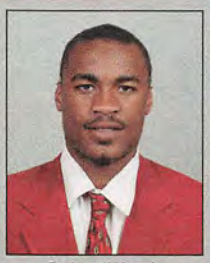
"We've waited a long time and it's been frustrating sometimes not going to a bowl, but we never let it define us," Barkley said. "We can make this year worth remembering and we've got a team to do it. I can't wait."

OFFENSE


Matt Barkley

Montee Ball

Marcus Lattimore


Robert Woods

Sammy Watkins

Tyler Eifert

FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Matt Barkley	6-2	230	Sr.	USC
RB	Montee Ball	5-11	212	Sr.	Wisconsin
RB	Marcus Lattimore	6-0	218	Jr.	South Carolina
WR	Robert Woods	6-1	190	Jr.	USC
WR	Sammy Watkins	6-1	200	So.	Clemson
TE	Tyler Eifert	6-6	251	Sr.	Notre Dame
C	Barrett Jones	6-5	302	Sr.	Alabama
OL	Alex Hurst	6-6	340	Sr.	LSU
OL	Luke Joeckel	6-6	310	Jr.	Texas A&M
OL	Ricky Wagner	6-6	322	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL	Chance Warmack	6-3	320	Sr.	Alabama
PK	Caleb Sturgis	5-11	187	Sr.	Florida

SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Denard Robinson	6-0	195	Sr.	Michigan
RB	Knile Davis	6-0	226	Jr.	Arkansas
RB	Ray Graham	5-9	195	Sr.	Pittsburgh
WR	Keenan Allen	6-3	206	Jr.	Cal
WR	Marquess Wilson	6-4	183	Jr.	Washington State
TE	Philip Lutzenkirchen	6-5	250	Sr.	Auburn
C	Dalton Freeman	6-5	285	Sr.	Clemson
OL	Omoregie Uzzi	6-3	300	Sr.	Georgia Tech
OL	Gabe Ikard	6-4	295	Jr.	Oklahoma
OL	Chris Faulk	6-6	325	Jr.	LSU
OL	Taylor Lewan	6-8	302	Jr.	Michigan
PK	Dustin Hopkins	6-2	190	Sr.	Florida State

Barrett Jones

Alex Hurst

Luke Joeckle

Ricky Wagner

Chance Warmack

Caleb Sturgis

Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman

There's No Limiting this Honey Badger

By Dennis Dodd

Tyrann Mathieu has seldom let boundaries define him. Why start now?

LSU's All-American cornerback starred at St. Augustine High in New Orleans' tough Orleans Parish. The practice field was a public park. The field was not lined. There were no goalposts. Still, he made it his own place to make the big time.

"It's part of the culture," said LSU running backs coach Frank Wilson, a "St. Aug" grad and New Orleans recruiting savant. "To those kids, they don't ever see it as, 'We don't have lines.' It's not an issue.

"It's not like they're sitting around there like, 'We're deprived.'"

So how hard could St. Aug be? Neighborhood residents, some casually smoking pot, would watch after the players at practice. On occasion, coach Dave Johnson would have to yell, "Get down" when a particularly dangerous police chase buzzed by.

Formally adopted last year, Mathieu was raised since the age of 5 by his aunt and uncle. FoxSports.com reported earlier this year that his birth father is serving time for murder.

Unlined field? Not a big deal.

More like unlimited potential for the tenacious Honey Badger.

So when Mathieu left Orleans Parish for Baton Rouge at age 17, he was ready for the big time. He flourished even prior to his freshman year. Usually casual 7-on-7 drills became a battleground for a kid longing to prove himself.

LSU veterans remember Mathieu making every play, tight-roping to stay inbounds after interceptions. Skinning knees, bruising elbows. This was a tryout in itself for the skinny 5-9 cover guy.

"He wanted to prove his worth," Wilson said. "To prove, 'I belong here.'"

We know now, don't we?

In a breakout 2011, Mathieu earned respect and that unforgettable nickname — Honey Badger. His accomplishments got him to New York City, where he finished fifth in the Heisman voting. He won the Bednarik Award for National Defensive Player of the Year. Mathieu became perhaps the best player at his position — certainly the one with the most impact — since Charles Woodson.

As a junior, he's *Lindy's* Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. Let's just say he's not stopping there.

"I just think mentally, in my mind, I was always a step ahead of the game," he said. "Not to take anything away from other players, I was just always confident in myself. I could make the best plays."

In redefining the position — at least in 2011 — Mathieu became master of what became dubbed "Badger Plays." In 26 career games, he has four interceptions, 11 forced fumbles, eight fumble recoveries and two punt returns for touchdowns. That adds up to 25 Badger Plays, almost one per game.

"It's almost like split personalities," Wilson said. "On the field, he has this bravado about himself, this swag, for lack of a better word. Off the field, he's humble and almost shy."

When the lights come on, he is the 5-9, 180-pound overachiever. The everyman Honey Badger.

Defensive coordinator John Chavis came up with the nickname returning from a game at West Virginia. A viral YouTube video sprang up showing how nature's real Honey Badger tenaciously

takes on dangerous prey.

Mathieu's cult of personality was such that the Heisman Trust even overlooked his one-game suspension during the season. Officially, LSU said it was for a violation of team rules. ESPN reported that Mathieu and two teammates had tested positive for synthetic marijuana.

"I think I got punished," Mathieu said. "I think I definitely did."

That barely diminished how the adopted son of a UPS truck driver burrowed his way into LSU hearts. With the season in the balance, he led the Tigers back from back-to-back double-digit deficits against Arkansas and in the SEC title game against Georgia.

With his team down 14-0 against the Hogs, Mathieu returned a punt 92 yards for a score. Georgia was up 10-0 in Atlanta, when Honey Badger once again sparked the comeback. A 62-yard punt return for a touchdown ended with Mathieu apparently not even scoring. Replays seemed to indicate that he tossed the ball to an official before crossing the goal line.

"I could see the referee looking at me kind of strange," Mathieu said. "I'll be sure the next time to make sure I cross the goal line."

When you're on that much of a roll, apparently even the replay booth is in awe.

Mathieu wasn't even allowed to return punts until his senior year at St. Aug. Because of his size, he hadn't been a star prospect on the camp circuit. But Wilson saw something. Working for Tennessee at the time, Wilson begged then-coach Lane Kiffin to offer Mathieu. No go.

To get him more attention, Wilson suggested to Johnson — now at Tulane — to feature Mathieu. Basically, Johnson created a few ways to make Mathieu's uncommon skills readily apparent. Then, Mathieu garnered some invitations to summer camps, where he became a national-level recruit.

"Unfortunately, I can't take a knife and cut him open and allow you to see the heart that was in him," Wilson said. "You can't measure what he has."

In a way, fans, media and teammates already have.

DEFENSE

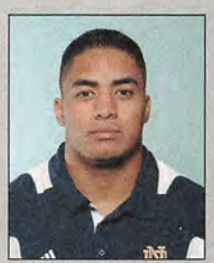
Sam Montgomery

Kawann Short

Star Lotulelei

Brandon Jenkins

Jarvis Jones

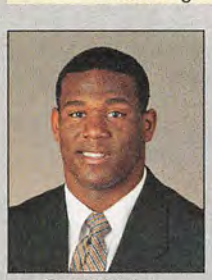

Manti Te'o

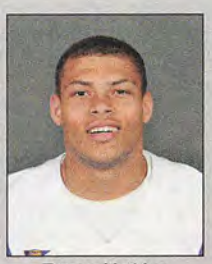
FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	Sam Montgomery	6-4	245	Jr.	LSU
DL	Kawann Short	6-3	310	Sr.	Purdue
DL	Star Lotulelei	6-4	325	Sr.	Utah
DL	Brandon Jenkins	6-3	260	Sr.	Florida State
LB	Jarvis Jones	6-3	241	Sr.	Georgia
LB	Manti Te'o	6-2	255	Sr.	Notre Dame
LB	Gerald Hodges	6-2	233	Sr.	Penn State
DB	Tyrann Mathieu	5-9	175	Jr.	LSU
DB	David Amerson	6-3	194	Jr.	NC State
DB	T.J. McDonald	6-3	205	Sr.	USC
DB	Eric Reid	6-2	208	Jr.	LSU
P	Brad Wing	6-3	184	So.	LSU

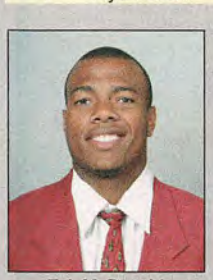
SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	William Gholston	6-7	275	Jr.	Michigan State
DL	Alex Okafor	6-4	260	Sr.	Texas
DL	Joe Vellano	6-1	285	Sr.	Maryland
DL	Barkevious Mingo	6-5	240	Jr.	LSU
LB	Chase Thomas	6-4	245	Sr.	Stanford
LB	A.J. Klein	6-2	244	Sr.	Iowa State
LB	Khaseem Greene	6-1	220	Sr.	Rutgers
DB	Johnny Adams	5-11	175	Sr.	Michigan State
DB	Nigel Malone	5-10	185	Sr.	Kansas State
DB	Robert Lester	6-2	210	Sr.	Alabama
DB	Bacarri Rambo	6-0	218	Sr.	Georgia
P	Ryan Allen	6-2	215	Sr.	Louisiana Tech


Gerald Hodges


Tyrann Mathieu

David Amerson


T.J. McDonald

Eric Reid

Brad Wing

QUARTERBACKS

Robinson adds 'leader' to his role as UM star

DENARD ROBINSON

Photo by Scott Boehm

The wide, effervescent smile that once defined Denard Robinson as much as his lightning-quick feet isn't as omnipresent as it once was.

The grin is still part of the package, evidence that the Michigan quarterback is as calm as on the first play from scrimmage in his career, when he turned a mishandled snap into a improvisational touchdown sprint.

But time, along with self-analysis and refinement, has changed Robinson.

The once shy personality has been replaced with an assertive demeanor. Once all smiles, Robinson is now businesslike and focused.

Although outside criticism persists, suggesting he doesn't have what it takes to play quarterback at the next level, Robinson remains focused on what time he has left in Ann Arbor. That would be the job description for his senior season, which requires him to take charge and hold his teammates accountable. That is, to be less of a pupil and more of a teacher.

"He's taking on more of a leadership role, and that's something that's exciting for me," offensive coordinator Al Borges said. "That's exciting for all of us."

Once more comfortable in the back of the room, Robinson is at now the head of the pack, willing to step to the forefront to help deliver the Wolverines' first Big Ten championship since 2004.

"I don't do a lot of yelling and patting people on the butt," Robinson said. "Sometimes, you have to get up in them, help them out and give them encouragement.

"You can't always be nice to them — I can't always have a smile on my face."

That face has also been the face of Michigan football since he took over at quarterback in 2010. The facial expressions have evolved over time.

Last season, a change in offensive philosophy changed Robinson's main duties, challenging him to run less and evolve into a more complete quarterback.

But there were growing pains. As Michigan flourished during an 11-2 season, capped by a Sugar Bowl victory, Robinson struggled with consistency. Despite flashes of brilliance, Robinson completed only 55 percent of his passes and was intercepted 15 times.

"That's not acceptable as a quarterback," Robinson said.

Borges, who adjusted his philosophies to accommodate Robinson's skills, impressed on his star quarterback that things had to change: It's time to eliminate turnovers and connect on more passes.

"He's made a marked improvement," Borges said. "There are still errors here and there, but they're less. As he goes and understands better and better, you're going to get a better product."

And when he doesn't meet the standard, it's Robinson — not Borges — who does the correcting.

With the extra effort, Robinson became more decisive and improved his accuracy, cutting down how much he threw off his back foot.

He also took a step forward as a leader.

The trait isn't one that comes naturally to the normally soft-spoken Robinson, whose teammates once struggled to understand him in the huddle. But over time, he made an impression on those around him.

"He has been more outgoing this season," receiver Roy Roundtree said. "Being a quarterback, that's what it takes, because everyone is looking up to the quarterback. We take real impact in being a senior and taking leadership — just like (last year's) seniors did.

"We're just trying to accomplish something better."

For Robinson, making his team better means making himself better. While remaining the focal point of his team and the school's resident Big Man On Campus — even earning him a shout-out from visiting President Barack Obama — Robinson has made self-improvement a main priority.

Both as a quarterback and a leader.

Ask how much his passing has improved, and Robinson characterizes the change as night and day. Bring up his tendency to be more vocal, and his all-business persona appears, understanding it's now part of who he is.

"I'm taking on a leadership role, trying to be the best quarterback I can be for the team," Robinson said. "Right now, I'm just trying to get better at everything."

And that's got everyone around him smiling from ear to ear.

— Jeff Arnold

TOP QUARTERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Matt Barkley**	Sr.	USC
	Enters season with 9,054 passing yards, 80 TDs ... and looking for a ring.		
2.	**Denard Robinson**	Sr.	Michigan
	Who cares if he might not be a next-level QB? He's a thrill-maker.		
3.	**Tyler Wilson**	Sr.	Arkansas
	Sky's the limit, but his two lowest passing days came vs. LSU, Bama.		
4.	**Geno Smith**	Sr.	West Virginia
	Facing better competition, but a repeat (4,385 yards, 31 TDs) is doable.		
5.	**Landry Jones**	Sr.	Oklahoma
	Has 12,379 career yards and something to prove after late-season slump.		
6.	**Aaron Murray**	Jr.	Georgia
	With 35 TD passes, just needs 14 to set Georgia school record.		
7.	**Collin Klein**	Sr.	Kansas State
	Such a dynamic runner, we almost put him on our all-purpose list.		
8.	**Tajh Boyd**	Jr.	Clemson
	The All-ACC QB is just scratching his potential after 33-TD season.		
9.	**Tyler Bray**	Jr.	Tennessee
	Has the arm that makes scouts drool ... now, he needs to win a big game.		
10.	**Logan Thomas**	Jr.	Virginia Tech
	The one-time reluctant QB set school mark with 3,482 total yards in '11.		
11.	**Keith Price**	Jr.	Washington
	More than kept pace with RG III in wild, wild Alamo Bowl loss.		
12.	**James Franklin**	Jr.	Missouri
	Had 3,846 total yards last year in Big 12. What's the SEC conversion rate?		
13.	**AJ McCarron**	Jr.	Alabama
	If Saban says the word, title-winning QB can carry more of the load.		
14.	**Casey Pachall**	Jr.	TCU
	Super debut as starter (2,911 yards, 25 TDs), with top WRs coming back.		
15.	**EJ Manuel**	Sr.	Florida State
	Never got launched as full-time starter last year (injuries, inconsistent).		
16.	**Bryn Renner**	Jr.	North Carolina
	Strong, accurate thrower led ACC in passing efficiency (159.4 rating).		
17.	**Braxton Miller**	So.	Ohio State
	Urban says he loves Miller's "work ethic" ... and about 100 other things.		
18.	**Taylor Martinez**	Jr.	Nebraska
	If he truly has fixed some of the deficiencies in his throwing motion ...		
19.	**Seth Doege**	Sr.	Texas Tech
	Huge numbers, but tailed off in the second half of the season.		
20.	**Jeff Tuel**	Sr.	Washington State
	Betting he holds off Connor Halliday for the keys to Leach's attack.		
21.	**Mike Glennon**	Sr.	NC State
	Big finish gave him 31 TDs passes; only Philip Rivers had more at State.		
22.	**Alex Carder**	Sr.	Western Michigan
	Carrying the flag for MAC QBs; averaged 322.8 yards per game in 2011.		
23.	**Derek Carr**	Jr.	Fresno State
	David Carr's kid bro should thrive in more of a spread look for 'Dogs.		
24.	**Connor Shaw**	Jr.	South Carolina
	Went 8-1 as starter, got better in read-option, didn't vex Spurrier.		
25.	**Zach Mettenberger**	Jr.	LSU
	Maybe he belongs on list, maybe not. Will be fascinating, either way.		

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ACCOUNT # EXP.

SIGNATURE

Ball returns to be better than last year's No. 1 RB

MONTEE BALL

Photo by Joe Robbins

Nobody came up to his face and said it, but Montee Ball knows some people were tempted to do so.

When the Wisconsin running back made the surprising decision to return for his senior year, he read and heard a lot of comments about what a huge mistake he was making.

How could he possibly improve on his 2011 season, when he was a Heisman Trophy finalist and led the Badgers to a second straight Rose Bowl? What about the risk of injury? Didn't he know running backs have notoriously short NFL shelf lives and shouldn't waste carries at the college level?

In announcing his decision to return, Ball admitted he was making "a pretty huge gamble."

While he knew all of the arguments against returning, they were trumped by two things he couldn't get out of his mind.

The first was outdoing an NFL Draft evaluation that projected him as a third-round pick. "I do believe I'm better than the third round," he said.

The second was the four-year commitment he made to the Badgers when he signed.

"My character speaks for itself," Ball said in the spring. "I'm true to my word. That's why I decided to stay here and help this team win. I signed a letter of intent to stay (four years)."

Ball told the running backs of his decision the day before the Rose Bowl, then informed the rest of the team in the locker room, following the heartbreaking 45-38 loss to Oregon.

For a while, it appeared as if Ball might be the only one returning. Six assistant coaches bolted for new jobs in January. Wisconsin sent a school-record eight players to the scouting combine, the second-highest total of any school in the country.

But Ball placed his trust in Badgers coach Bret Bielema and weathered the turmoil. Bielema found new coaches, and the Badgers go into the season hoping to make school history with a third consecutive Big Ten title.

"From day one, when I told (Bielema) to his face, I decided to stay, I had a lot of faith in him — and I still do," Ball said. "He picked the right coaches. They're really doing a great job finding a bunch of young players who are going to help us."

Ball's show of faith was a strong declaration about the program's direction. He also backed up his vow to get better with his performance in winter workouts. Strength coaches set up six individual stations, where players competed one-on-one in a variety of agility drills. Ball went undefeated.

"He was challenged more than anybody," running backs coach Thomas Hammock said. "He won every one. He was always at the front of the line, pushing the guys."

Ball worked in the spring to polish minor flaws in his game, focusing on pass protection and becoming even more explosive out of cuts.

"What I've seen right here (in the spring), Montee will be a better player," Bielema said.

Ball led the nation with 1,923 rushing yards last season, and his 39 total touchdowns tied the NCAA record set by Barry Sanders in 1988. Bielema said Ball could be a better all-around player in 2012, even if he doesn't match his gaudy 2011 statistics.

"He's not trying to produce the same numbers," Bielema said. "He's not trying to do anything other than try to win football games and play his best football."

And those critics, who said he was crazy for coming back? They provide even more motivation for Ball's relentless pursuit of improvement.

"It's a lot of fuel," he said.

Hammock tells his players, "The enemy of great is being good." Ball refuses to be satisfied and is determined to drag his teammates along with him.

"That's what I'm striving to be — great," he said. "You don't know how hard I'm going to work and how hard I'm going to push these players to make this thing work. You never know what a player is capable of doing."

— Tom Mulhern

TOP RUNNING BACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Montee Ball**	Sr.	Wisconsin
	A 2011 Heisman finalist after rushing for 1,923 yards and 33 TDs.		
2.	**Marcus Lattimore**	Jr.	South Carolina
	Let's assume a healthy knee; punishing runner will rip through SEC.		
3.	**Knile Davis**	Jr.	Arkansas
	Remember, he had 1,028 yards in final seven games of 2010 season.		
4.	**Ray Graham**	Sr.	Pittsburgh
	Was nation's second-leading rusher before knee injury at midseason.		
5.	**Joseph Randle**	Jr.	Oklahoma State
	Scatback seeks same open spaces with new weapons at QB, WR.		
6.	**Giovani Bernard**	So.	North Carolina
	All-ACC freshman had 1,253 yards and 13 touchdowns.		
7.	**Fitzgerald Toussaint**	Jr.	Michigan
	Ready to build off sensational second half of the 2011 season.		
8.	**Stepfan Taylor**	Sr.	Stanford
	Had "quiet" consecutive 1,000-yard seasons in Andrew Luck's shadow.		
9.	**Robbie Rouse**	Sr.	Fresno State
	Big-time workhorse; carried 36 times for 169 yards vs. Nebraska.		
10.	**Andre Ellington**	Sr.	Clemson
	Rushed for 1,178 yards last season; needs a full year of health.		
11.	**Rex Burkhead**	Sr.	Nebraska
	Not as flashy as some, but he's good for north of 1,300 yards again.		
12.	**John White IV**	Sr.	Utah
	As a JC transfer last season, set a school record with 1,519 rushing yards.		
13.	**Kenjon Barner**	Sr.	Oregon
	Main man now? Went for 939 yards and 11 TDs as backup last season.		
14.	**Eddie Lacy**	Jr.	Alabama
	From Mark Ingram to Trent Richardson ... and here's the next Bama star.		
15.	**Zach Line**	Sr.	SMU
	Rushed for at least 82 yards in all 10 games before injury late in 2011.		
16.	**Zac Stacy**	Sr.	Vanderbilt
	The SEC's leading returning rusher; darted for 1,193 yards, 14 TDs.		
17.	**Christine Michael**	Sr.	Texas A&M
	Oft-injured and coming off ACL tear, but his ceiling is as high as any.		
18.	**Cierre Wood**	Sr.	Notre Dame
	Bigger focus of offense with QB in transition; 1,102 rushing yards in 2011.		
19.	**Silas Redd**	Jr.	Penn State
	Needs to be a constant for Lions amid change to Bill O'Brien's offense.		
20.	**Isaiah Crowell**	So.	Georgia
	Touted recruit was SEC Freshman of the Year with 850 yards.		
21.	**Curtis McNeal**	Sr.	USC
	Bulked up to help durability; averaged 6.9 yards a carry last year.		
22.	**Le'Veon Bell**	Jr.	Michigan State
	Potential for more carries after 948 yards, 13 TDs in a time-share.		
23.	**Onterio McCalebb**	Sr.	Auburn
	Little guy can do it all, and should get a bigger workload this season.		
24.	**Perry Jones**	Sr.	Virginia
	His pass-catching skills (48 receptions last year) help set him apart.		
25.	**LSU's quartet**	n/a	LSU
	Take your pick: Michael Ford, Spencer Ware, Kenny Hilliard, Alfred Blue.		

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'The Robert Factor' keeps Trojans looking downfield

ROBERT WOODS

Photo by John Pyle

USC wide receiver Robert Woods was a consensus All-American and finalist for the Biletnikoff Award last season, but if he needs motivation for his junior season, he needs to look no further than the comments of his coach, Lane Kiffin.

The day after USC defeated UCLA, 50-0, in the season-finale, Kiffin said Woods was "the second-best receiver" on the team, behind Marqise Lee.

TOP WIDE RECEIVERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Robert Woods**	Jr.	USC
	Can line up anywhere and create a mismatch; 111 catches last year.		
2.	**Sammy Watkins**	So.	Clemson
	Freshman season: 82 catches for 1,219 yards and 12 touchdowns.		
3.	**Keenan Allen**	Jr.	Cal
	Had 98 catches for 1,342 yards last season with half-brother at QB.		
4.	**Marquess Wilson**	Jr.	Washington State
	Uneven spring, but big-play guy has to be the focus of Mike Leach attack.		
5.	**Marqise Lee**	So.	USC
	So dangerous after the catch; should become an all-time USC great.		
6.	**Justin Hunter**	Jr.	Tennessee
	Last season's torn ACL won't stop him from becoming SEC's best.		
7.	**Kenny Stills**	Jr.	Oklahoma
	Maturing player with big personality and Ryan Broyles' shoes to fill.		
8.	**Tavon Austin**	Sr.	West Virginia
	Inside WR had great spring after four-TD game vs. Clemson in bowl game.		
9.	**Cobi Hamilton**	Sr.	Arkansas
	Numbers will soar as Tyler Wilson's primary target this time around.		
10.	**Terrance Williams**	Sr.	Baylor
	A playmaker for the new QB: 59 catches, 957 yards, 11 TDs in '11.		
11.	**Da'Rick Rogers**	Jr.	Tennessee
	First-round potential, but has had his share of off-field problems.		
12.	**Stedman Bailey**	Jr.	West Virginia
	Gotta love his speed, playmaking (12 TDs) and 17.8 yards per catch.		
13.	**Malcolm Mitchell**	So.	Georgia
	Look good in the spring ... at corner? No worries, will catch plenty as WR.		
14.	**Ryan Swope**	Sr.	Texas A&M
	Can he replicate 89 catches, 1,207 yards without Tannehill ... and in SEC?		
15.	**DeAndre Hopkins**	Jr.	Clemson
	Dabbled in hoops, focused on football now; 124 catches in two years.		
16.	**Tavarres King**	Sr.	Georgia
	Has a gear that can go get plenty of deep passes from Aaron Murray.		
17.	**Josh Boyce**	Jr.	TCU
	Came up big vs. Boise last season; finished 2011 with 998 yards, nine TDs.		
18.	**Emory Blake**	Sr.	Auburn
	Deep threat averaged 17.0 yards per catch last season.		
19.	**Conner Vernon**	Sr.	Duke
	Only player in ACC history with multiple seasons of 70-plus catches.		
20.	**Odell Beckham**	So.	LSU
	LSU's new go-to guy will run down deep balls from Zach Mettenberger.		

TOP TIGHT ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Tyler Eifert**	Sr.	Notre Dame
	Earned some All-America honors last season (63 catches, 803 yards).		
2.	**Philip Lutzenkirchen**	Sr.	Auburn
	Makes the circus catches, blocks and comes through in the clutch.		
3.	**Jacob Pedersen**	Jr.	Wisconsin
	Made eight TD catches last season and is blossoming as a blocker.		
4.	**Austin Seferian-Jenkins**	So.	Washington
	Terrific athlete who also played Husky hoops; ready for monster season.		
5.	**Jake Stoneburner**	Sr.	Ohio State
	Remember Aaron Hernandez at Florida for Meyer? That's Stoneburner.		

*Not rated due to spring suspension: Darius Johnson, SMU

It was an odd comment. Woods set the conference receiving record (111), and led the team in receiving yards (1,292) and touchdown catches (15).

Yet, in the Trojans' rout of the Bruins, while Woods was catching 12 passes, Lee was catching 13. While Woods was amassing 113 yards and two touchdowns, Lee was piling up 224 yards and two scores. On that night, Lee was unbelievable.

"I respect what Coach Kiffin said," Woods said. "I just want to be healthy and 100 percent this year. Then I can show everyone what I'm capable of doing when I'm pain free."

Woods, you see, played with an ankle injury that bothered him the *entire* season. Even with the bad ankle, Woods did things most receivers fail to do with two healthy wheels. Just one example: He caught a short pass against Arizona and turned it into an 82-yard touchdown en route to 255 yards receiving against the Wildcats.

"He makes a lot of plays that make me look good," USC quarterback Matt Barkley said. "He's really easy to play with because he is always where he needs to be. I can depend on him every play if I need to. We have a special relationship that way."

Having an experienced playmaker like Woods, and an up-and-comer like Lee, gave Barkley two reasons to come back for his senior season.

From his first day at USC, Woods displayed special tendencies, walking everywhere with his playbook and learning the offense faster than the other freshmen. He and Barkley were immediately on the same page.

"We always had our timing down," Woods said. "It's like playing catch with someone. It's real natural."

Woods underwent ankle surgery after last season and, to ensure he is healthy this year, did not participate in spring practice.

With teams now worried about Lee, it might be impossible to double-team Woods. The duo's combined receptions (184) and receiving yards (2,435) were the most by a pair of USC receivers in a single season.

Kiffin called opposing teams' double-coverage "The Robert Factor."

"He helps us in ways I don't think people understand," Kiffin said. "Even if he only has eight receptions in a game, they're trying to take him away and it's allowing all these other guys to make plays."

Woods opened the season catching a school-record 17 passes against Minnesota, drawing ever-increasing attention from defenses.

"What's really amazing, even after all the attention they gave him, he had 33 catches in the first three games," Kiffin said.

But Woods is not just one of the nation's top receivers, he's one of the hungriest.

"There were times when Coach Kiffin said I might not play in games (because of injuries)," Woods said. "I remember everyone wanted to know if I would play against Oregon. I knew I would play. But I also knew I wasn't at my best.

"I have no doubts I will be at my best this year."

Whatever Woods does, the big question for USC fans is whether Woods will return for his senior season in 2013?

"If the NFL is there, of course you have to look into it," Woods said. "But Matt and (safety) T.J. McDonald set the standard, returning for their senior year. Me and (linebacker) Dion Bailey and a lot of guys were talking. That should be the new trend, getting your degree."

If that is what Woods really thinks, Kiffin will have no problems bestowing any title the wide receiver wants.

— Scott Wolf

Aggies tackle is no joke to opponents

After graduating a semester early from Arlington (Texas) High, offensive lineman Luke Joeckel — perhaps the biggest prize of Texas A&M's 2010 recruiting class — enrolled in January 2010, along with his twin brother Matt, a quarterback prospect for the Aggies.

LUKE JOECKEL

Photo by Doug Holleman

With Jerrod Johnson and Ryan Tannehill entrenched at quarterback entering the spring of 2010, Matt Joeckel had no illusions of playing early in his collegiate career. Because of deficiencies in the offensive line, however, Luke was regarded as a likely candidate to work his way into the starting lineup as a true freshman ... at the high-profile spot of left tackle, no less.

But when spring ball started, Joeckel was embarrassed on the practice field. His hopes of starting immediately — as well as most of his long-term dreams — were initially dashed when he could rarely even *touch* the rush linebacker in front of him.

"It was a joke, but it wasn't funny to me," the well-spoken Joeckel recalled. "I was right out of high school trying to make a big impression, and there were many times I couldn't even touch the guy.

"I'm dead serious. I remember thinking, 'Man, is this the kind of talent I'm going to see every week in the Big 12?' I was pretty happy when we started playing games and realized that not everybody I faced was like Von Miller."

Well, yeah. Miller, remember, led the nation in sacks in 2009, won the Butkus Award in 2010, and was the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2011 after a stellar debut season with the Denver Broncos. Additionally, Miller may have placed Joeckel on the fast track in terms of his development as an offensive lineman.

"My freshman year was hard, especially in terms of just getting used to the speed compared to high school," Joeckel said. "But blocking Von Miller in spring practices helped me a ton. I had a lot of offside penalties when I first came in, but after four or five games, I started getting better."

Joeckel, a 6-6, 315-pound left tackle, soon realized that nobody else could block Miller one-on-one, consistently, either. So upon starting all 13 games as a true freshman in 2010, Joeckel struggled at times, but made major strides as the Aggies won their last six regular-season games before falling to LSU in the Cotton Bowl.

Joeckel continued his impressive development as a sophomore, emerging as the premier player on an offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks (nine) in the Big 12 in 2011.

"I felt much more comfortable last year," he said. "This year, I plan on getting better and better and building on what I've done so far."

Joeckel and fellow junior right tackle Jake Matthews, son of NFL Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews, form one of the most impressive tackle tandems in Texas A&M history. As the Aggies prepare to enter the SEC in 2012, the offensive line is undoubtedly the team's strength.

Joeckel says he is fully aware that dominant defensive line play has been one of the key characteristics of the premier teams in the SEC for many years. Nevertheless, Joeckel is confident he is prepared for anything or anyone he will face this year and beyond.

"Going to the SEC, we are playing against the best competition in the country, and it is a league known for its great defensive linemen," said Joeckel, whose father, David, was an offensive lineman at Texas Tech.

"But I am looking forward to that challenge. Jake and I are looking forward to going against those great defensive ends in the SEC. Personally, I feel like I've already played against the best of the best in Von.

"That guy is a total freak in a good way, and I was not surprised at all that he was the Defensive Rookie of the Year. He really helped me develop in a hurry and prepared me for whatever I'll face next."

— Rusty Burson

TOP CENTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Barrett Jones**	Sr.	Alabama
	Outland Trophy winner takes on a new position on Bama's talented OL.		
2.	**Dalton Freeman**	Sr.	Clemson
	All-ACC center has started 36 games in his career.		
3.	**Khaled Holmes**	Sr.	USC
	How about an All-American combination at QB and center for USC?		
4.	**Ben Habern**	Sr.	Oklahoma
	Missed spring with neck injury but will be back to help lead standout OL.		
5.	**Joe Madsen**	Sr.	West Virginia
	Hasn't missed a start in his career; led team in knockdown blocks in '11.		
6.	**Travis Swanson**	Jr.	Arkansas
	Will be third-year starter; the up-front centerpiece for a prolific offense.		
7.	**T.J. Johnson**	Sr.	South Carolina
	Started all 40 games of career, with postseason awards along the way.		
8.	**Braxston Cave**	Sr.	Notre Dame
	Missing last four games helped him decide to return for fifth year.		

TOP GUARDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Chance Warmack**	Sr.	Alabama
	Even with Barrett Jones at center, Warmack might be Bama's best OL.		
2.	**Omoregie Uzzi**	Sr.	Georgia Tech
	Earned All-ACC honors and checked out draft status before returning.		
3.	**Gabe Ikard**	Jr.	Oklahoma
	Also excelled at center when Ben Habern was out last season.		
4.	**Alvin Bailey**	Jr.	Arkansas
	Was in the doghouse in the spring ... but has All-SEC talent.		
5.	**Larry Warford**	Sr.	Kentucky
	Two-time second-team selection to the All-SEC team.		
6.	**Jonathan Cooper**	Sr.	North Carolina
	Was rated NFLDraftScout's No. 1 senior OG prospect in spring.		
7.	**Chris McDonald**	Sr.	Michigan State
	Athletic lineman whose brother, Nick, has spent past two years in NFL.		
8.	**Lane Taylor**	Sr.	Oklahoma State
	With 36 career starts, leads a revamped line in front of freshman QB.		

TOP TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Alex Hurst**	Sr.	LSU
	A coaches' All-SEC selection who mans the right side for the Tigers.		
2.	**Luke Joeckel**	Jr.	Texas A&M
	Huge potential will be tested by the big and speedy SEC pass rushers.		
3.	**Ricky Wagner**	Sr.	Wisconsin
	Has nicely followed in LT footsteps of Joe Thomas and Gabe Carimi.		
4.	**Chris Faulk**	Jr.	LSU
	Should be a eying a first-round draft grade with a big junior year.		
5.	**Taylor Lewan**	Jr.	Michigan
	Kid with big personality who is drawing comparisons to UM greats.		
6.	**Oday Aboushi**	Sr.	Virginia
	Cavs have had three first-round OTs since 2006 ... one more?		
7.	**D.J. Fluker**	Jr.	Alabama
	Might have most potential on OT list; looking lean at a scant 350 pounds.		
8.	**Justin Pugh**	Sr.	Syracuse
	All-Big East performer; has blocked for two different 1,000-yard RBs.		

PLAYER RATINGS

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

For LSU's Montgomery, it's 'all about the mindset,' and more

SAM MONTGOMERY

Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman

In the quest to become "a great LSU player," junior right defensive end Sam Montgomery said it takes "a dominant defensive mentality. ... It's all about mindset."

If that were the only requirement, there would be no shortage of "great LSU players."

Then, again, given the talent-rich depth of the Tigers, it could be argued they don't lack for great players. Yet, only a select few stand out from the rest, and that's where Montgomery fits in.

Not only is he strong "between the ears," which is how he classified the proper mental disposition, he has the physical ability to become an NFL first-round draft choice. At 6-4, 245 pounds, he has the size to disrupt the opposition and the speed and footwork to create havoc.

What's more, he works diligently to enhance those physical skills.

Defensive coordinator John Chavis said Montgomery "brings some special things to our defense in terms of a guy who can play the run well and also rush the passer."

Montgomery's statistics support that claim. Last season, he registered a team-high nine sacks, the third-highest total in the Southeastern Conference. That matched the fourth best single-season total in school history.

His 13.5 tackles for losses ranked fourth in the SEC. He finished with 49 tackles overall, tops among LSU's returning linemen.

No wonder he was selected first-team All-America by the Football Writers of America, and was a Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year finalist.

Montgomery considered jumping early to the NFL, but decided against it because he wanted to earn his degree next spring. He also wanted to help his young backups prepare to start when he does leave.

Besides, in the meantime, he's enjoying himself and college. He redshirted his first year and then started the first five games of 2010 before his season was cut short by a knee injury. He had 18 tackles with two sacks, leading coaches to name him to the SEC All-Freshman Team.

Then came his dominant redshirt sophomore season. As much as he has accomplished, he has only 16 starts in his career, so an additional year of experience is likely to help him in the eyes of the NFL.

He'll team with Barkevious Mingo, LSU's other starting junior defensive end, to keep the Tigers among the nation's best defenses. They ranked second last season, limiting foes to just 261.5 yards and 11.3 points per game.

"We haven't lost a beat," Montgomery said. "The front looks good. We just need to step it up some. We'll work on that during the summer."

Namely, LSU has to be just a notch better than Alabama, which edged the Tigers in both defensive statistical categories and embarrassed them in the BCS national championship game, 21-0. LSU stopped Alabama in overtime during the regular season, 9-6, but was no match for the Crimson Tide in the postseason.

Montgomery said he and his teammates have moved on. "January 9th was put to bed a long time ago."

He did add a qualifier to that statement: "It's been in our minds. But just as a reminder that for every game you have to be ready for every last moment. ... As far as the bad taste in my mouth, I just look forward to the next time we play them."

That would be Nov. 3 in Tiger Stadium. There will be plenty of football to play before then, and LSU will need Montgomery performing as well as ever to handle the rigors of the SEC.

Montgomery has paid special attention to his hand work and his quickness off the line, saying he's committed to doing whatever necessary to finish his college career right.

That would entail finishing off the season one game better than last season ... which is where *Lindy's* ranks the Tigers heading into the fall.

— Dave Moormann

TOP DEFENSIVE ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Sam Montgomery**	Jr.	**LSU**
	Was a FWAA first-team All-American after posting nine sacks on great D.		
2.	**Brandon Jenkins**	Sr.	**Florida State**
	Has helped lead resurgence of FSU D with 36.5 career tackles for loss.		
3.	**William Gholston**	Jr.	**Michigan State**
	Reminiscent of former Spartan Julian Peterson ... freakishly athletic.		
4.	**Alex Okafor**	Sr.	**Texas**
	Big Oak was first-team All-Big 12 with 14 TFLs, including seven sacks.		
5.	**Joe Vellano**	Sr.	**Maryland**
	Great motor; moving to end in 3-4 look. Would rate even higher at DT.		
6.	**Barkevious Mingo**	Jr.	**LSU**
	Almost unfairly quick off the edge, had five QB hurries in SEC title game.		
7.	**Stansly Maponga**	Jr.	**TCU**
	Another great TCU pass rusher; nine sacks and five forced fumbles in '11.		
8.	**Jadeveon Clowney**	So.	**South Carolina**
	Nation's best recruit in 2011 playing like he wants to be top pick in 2014.		
9.	**James Gayle**	Jr.	**Virginia Tech**
	Has potential to be as good a defender as there is in the ACC.		
10.	**Corey Lemonier**	Jr.	**Auburn**
	Tigers' defense starts with Lemonier (9.5 sacks, five forced fumbles).		
11.	**John Simon**	Sr.	**Ohio State**
	Has 28 career tackles for loss and leads Urban's talented D-line.		
12.	**Jackson Jeffcoat**	Jr.	**Texas**
	Rangy and sudden off the line, as his 21 TFLs last season suggest.		
13.	**Dion Jordan**	Sr.	**Oregon**
	Just like the rest of the Ducks: Built for speed and looking for a mismatch.		
14.	**Devin Taylor**	Sr.	**South Carolina**
	At 6-7, has a huge wingspan to get in QB's air space; six sacks last year.		

TOP DEFENSIVE TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Kawann Short**	Sr.	**Purdue**
	Has rare quickness, pass-rush skills for interior lineman (17 TFLs).		
2.	**Star Lotulelei**	Sr.	**Utah**
	Was voted by Pac-12 offensive linemen as the league's best DL last year.		
3.	**Jonathan Hankins**	Jr.	**Ohio State**
	Made 67 tackles last season and had a big spring for new coaches.		
4.	**John Jenkins**	Sr.	**Georgia**
	At 351 pounds, he is the classic immovable object on the D-line.		
5.	**Aaron Donald**	Jr.	**Pittsburgh**
	Moved around the front last year when he had 16 TFLs and 11 sacks.		
6.	**Jesse Williams**	Sr.	**Alabama**
	Won't be a big stats guy, but invaluable as Bama's new man in middle.		
7.	**Bennie Logan**	Jr.	**LSU**
	Made 57 tackles for the nation's second-best defense in 2011.		
8.	**Nikita Whitlock**	Jr.	**Wake Forest**
	Not the prototype: He's 5-11, 260, and just zips past interior linemen.		
9.	**Baker Steinkuhler**	Sr.	**Nebraska**
	Son of Nebraska legend has been good; senior season could be special.		
10.	**Jordan Hill**	Sr.	**Penn State**
	Coach Bill O'Brien says Hill is one of better DTs he's been around.		

PLAYER RATINGS

LINEBACKERS

Rare talent has Irish looking for rare season

Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Diaco knows linebackers such as Manti Te'o only come around every so often.

Diaco says the only defensive player he has been around that compares to Te'o is Chris Long, the former Virginia star and current St. Louis Rams defensive end.

"He was unique," said Diaco, who coached linebackers and was special teams coordinator at Virginia from 2006 to 2008. "I hadn't been around someone like him before or since Manti. It's like every 10 years, 20 years."

MANTI TE'O

Photo by Robin Alam/Icon SMI

Te'o has been special — or as Diaco calls him, "rare" — since he arrived at Notre Dame as the nation's No. 1 defensive prospect out of high school.

The 6-2, 255-pound senior started 10 of 12 games as a freshman and recorded 63 tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss.

He followed up by more than doubling his tackles as a sophomore — 133, including 9.5 for loss, as he started every game.

Te'o continued to rack up impressive numbers as a junior, notching 128 stops with 13.5 for loss. And he added another element — sacks.

After recording only two sacks in his first two seasons, Te'o had five last year.

"I can improve on everything as a leader, as a football player," Te'o said. "I can just improve on everything and in every facet of my game."

There was no guarantee Te'o was going to give Notre Dame all four years of his eligibility. He contemplated entering the NFL Draft after the Irish finished 8-5 for a second straight season and lost 18-14 to Florida State in the Champs Sports Bowl.

He was projected as high as a first-round draft selection, but he didn't want to leave Notre Dame without his degree or feeling like he gave the university and football program everything he has.

"I'm just going to try to maximize everything I got, maximize my potential," Te'o said. "I'm going to make sure that when I leave here I can honestly say I gave it my all."

But while he gives it his all, Te'o understands that being one of the most high-profile players at Notre Dame can create some unwanted attention. He said he will block out bad thoughts as he plays his final college season.

"Honestly, it's a lot of pressure, and sometimes it's pressure you don't want," Te'o said. "Sometimes it carries over to your family, and people say stuff about your family.

"It hurts. You are just a regular 21-year-old, who has loving parents, and people are saying stuff about you and your family. It comes with the territory I guess.

"You always have to keep a clear mind and remember who you are and do what you do. And not pay attention to all the critics and guys who praise you. You have to stay focused, level-headed, and you will be fine."

Te'o returns to a defense that has plenty of talent, even after emerging star defensive end Aaron Lynch left the program during spring practice. Lynch said he wanted to return home to south Florida.

Notre Dame's defensive line features ends Stephon Tuitt and Kapron Lewis-Moore and nose guard Louis Nix III. Te'o will be joined in the linebacker rotation by Dan Fox, Carlo Calabrese, Ishaq Williams and Danny Spond.

In addition, safeties Jamoris Slaughter and Zeke Motta will keep the defensive backfield strong, as new cornerbacks Lo Wood, Josh Atkinson and Bennett Jackson settle in.

With a strong supporting cast, Te'o says he is thinking of only one thing in his final season — going out on top.

"I just want to win," Te'o said. "I want to do whatever it takes to win. I know I have guys around me, and this team wants to win. It's a special team. I'm not just saying that because it is my senior year."

— Tony Krausz

TOP INSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Manti Te'o**	Sr.	Notre Dame
	Hasn't disappointed on or off field. Career: 324 tackles, 28.5 for loss.		
2.	**A.J. Klein**	Sr.	Iowa State
	Co-Big 12 Defensive POY; had 14 tackles in upset of Oklahoma State.		
3.	**Chris Borland**	Jr.	Wisconsin
	The best middle linebacker in Big Ten ... again (143 tackles, 19 for loss).		
4.	**Arthur Brown**	Sr.	Kansas State
	Ex-Miami Hurricane flew around for 101 stops in all-league season.		
5.	**C.J. Mosley**	Jr.	Alabama
	Former Freshman All-American will be a star in an expanded role.		
6.	**Kevin Reddick**	Sr.	North Carolina
	Vocal leader could be another first-round defender from Carolina.		
7.	**Alec Ogletree**	Jr.	Georgia
	Be hard-pressed to find a quicker ILB; 52 tackles in eight games in '11.		
8.	**Nico Johnson**	Sr.	Alabama
	Hasn't had the full playing time to post big numbers ... but he will.		
9.	**James Morris**	Jr.	Iowa
	Made 110 tackles last season while splitting time inside and outside.		
10.	**Shayne Skov**	Sr.	Stanford
	ACL rehab was coming along fine in the spring; tough, tenacious player.		

TOP OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Jarvis Jones**	Sr.	Georgia
	Big plays get noticed (13.5 sacks, 19.5 TFLs), but he's a complete package.		
2.	**Gerald Hodges**	Sr.	Penn State
	Former safety has great instincts moving forward and backward.		
3.	**Chase Thomas**	Sr.	Stanford
	Great size and pass-rushing ability off the edge (8.5 sacks last year).		
4.	**Khaseem Greene**	Sr.	Rutgers
	Big East co-Defensive Player of the Year after league-leading 141 stops.		
5.	**Jonathan Brown**	Jr.	Illinois
	Final seven games: 78 tackles, 13.5 for loss, four sacks, two recoveries.		
6.	**Mike Taylor**	Sr.	Wisconsin
	First-team All-Big Ten player who made 150 tackles last season.		
7.	**Jake Knott**	Sr.	Iowa State
	Returning All-Big 12 player is physical, tough; has 268 career tackles.		
8.	**Jelani Jenkins**	Jr.	Florida
	Fits the profile as athletic linebacker who should be making huge plays.		
9.	**Denicos Allen**	Jr.	Michigan State
	A playmaker (11 sacks, 18.5 TFLs) on excellent Michigan State defense.		
10.	**Sean Porter**	Sr.	Texas A&M
	Porter (17 TFLs, 9.5 sacks) and DE Damontre Moore fit in fine in SEC.		
11.	**Kenny Tate**	Sr.	Maryland
	2010 All-ACC safety returning from ACL injury suffered in the 2011 season.		
12.	**A.J. Johnson**	So.	Tennessee
	Made 80 tackles en route to consensus Freshman All-America honors.		
13.	**Dion Bailey**	So.	USC
	Ready for bigger honors after being Pac-12 Defensive Freshman POY.		
14.	**Shaun Lewis**	Jr.	Oklahoma State
	An impact player from the start, with 17.5 career tackles for loss.		

Wolfpack craving a replay of Amerson's baker's dozen

DAVID AMERSON

Photo by Jeff Siner/Charlotte Observer/MCT

The replay looped on the videoboard at Carter-Finley Stadium during North Carolina State's spring game.

There was Wolfpack cornerback David Amerson's 65-yard interception return in the Belk Bowl ... three times, three different angles, played over and over. Every time it was a touchdown.

It was Amerson's favorite interception of a conference-record 13 in 2011.

"That's a tough one to top," Amerson said of the big play against Louisville.

"It was for the (ACC) record; it went for a touchdown, and it helped us win the game."

Amerson, who didn't have an interception as a freshman, had two in the 31-24 bowl victory. The pick-six in the third quarter became the deciding points in the game and eclipsed former North Carolina cornerback Dre Bly's conference mark of 11 interceptions from 1996.

Amerson added one more interception on Louisville's final possession of the game to give him 13 for the season. Al Worley of Washington is the only player in Division I-A history with more, 14 in 1968.

That kind of a season would be tough for anyone to top. What do you do for an encore after breaking a 73-year-old school record, setting a conference record, and leading the country in interceptions?

It's a question the junior from Greensboro, N.C., has already thought about in a whirlwind offseason of collecting All-American honors and the Jack Tatum Award as the nation's top defensive back.

First things first for Amerson: Stay humble. The bright-eyed, soft-spoken, under-recruited local product gets more attention on campus — and some good-natured trash talk from his teammates — but he's focused on following up his spectacular 2011 season.

"As quick as you go up, you can go down," Amerson said. "I have to have the same hungry attitude. I can't be satisfied with where I'm at."

Amerson attributes his success to his soft hands — he played receiver in high school — and a knack for the ball. If he can touch the ball, it's usually his. At 6-3, he's tall for a corner, but he still has quick feet and good hip turn, qualities the best cover corners have.

It's the combination of all the qualities — the athletic ability and the IQ — that makes Amerson so successful, NC State coach Tom O'Brien said.

"He has a great feel for the game and a great sense of anticipation," O'Brien said.

Plus, the coach added: "He just has a knack for making plays."

Amerson's attitude is even more impressive to O'Brien. After the season, Amerson's teammates voted him team MVP. When he stood up for the acceptance speech, he told his teammates that he would be defined by what he does with the rest of his career, not what he did in 2011.

"He has his mindset in the right direction," O'Brien said.

But will anyone throw in Amerson's direction this season? He had four games in 2011 with at least two interceptions, with game-deciding touchdown returns against Virginia and Louisville. Senior safety Earl Wolff said Louisville tested Amerson only twice in the bowl game ... and both passes ended up his hands.

"Any time the ball comes his way, he can make a play," Wolff said.

Given the design of the Wolfpack's defense — Amerson lines up as the field corner, always to the wide side of the field — O'Brien says Amerson will get tested, just not as much as last year.

Amerson worked on his strength and footwork in the offseason, but maybe he needed to work on his patience. He is prepared to see fewer passes and, likely, come up with fewer interceptions.

Thirteen, he admits, is a lot and there was some luck involved. But there's one stat he'll be counting on this season.

"As long as we get the wins, I'll be fine," he said.

In NC State's case, the wins usually follow the highlight-reel interceptions.

— Joe Giglio

TOP CORNERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Tyrann Mathieu**	Jr.	LSU
	Plays bigger than he is, knows the right time to be aggressive.		
2.	**David Amerson**	Jr.	NC State
	Can't expect him to grab 13 INTs again, but he'll always affect the game.		
3.	**Johnny Adams**	Sr.	Michigan State
	All-Big Ten performer active and fast; three INTs and four sacks in 2011.		
4.	**Nigel Malone**	Sr.	Kansas State
	Had seven picks last season in his first year out of junior college.		
5.	**Johnthan Banks**	Sr.	Mississippi State
	Has 12 career INTs; best Bulldogs DB in about a decade.		
6.	**Nickell Robey**	Jr.	USC
	Small and quick (5-8, 165), he's All-Pac-12 vs. waves of tall, talented WRs.		
7.	**Micah Hyde**	Sr.	Iowa
	Versatile DB stepped up in spring, asked to be leader and play more man.		
8.	**Brodrick Brown**	Jr.	Oklahoma State
	Makes up for lack of height (5-8) with athleticism and on-ball skills.		
9.	**E.J. Gaines**	Jr.	Missouri
	Defended 18 passes last season to set a single-season school mark.		
10.	**Merrill Noel**	So.	Wake Forest
	Was a fearless freshman who broke up a school-record 19 passes.		
11.	**Demontre Hurst**	Sr.	Oklahoma
	A veteran of 27 starts; had 55-yard INT return for TD vs. Texas in '11.		
12.	**Xavier Rhodes**	Jr.	Florida State
	Numbers a bit down last year, but he's a big, physical player with upside.		

TOP SAFETIES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**T.J. McDonald**	Sr.	USC
	Another Trojan who stayed; like dad, Tim, he's an All-American.		
2.	**Eric Reid**	Jr.	LSU
	By our count, one of six LSU juniors who could be first-rounders in 2013.		
3.	**Robert Lester**	Sr.	Alabama
	After nearly leaving for NFL, came back to lead reloaded secondary.		
4.	**Bacarri Rambo**	Sr.	Georgia
	Downgraded a bit because he has to serve early season suspension.		
5.	**John Boyett**	Sr.	Oregon
	Brings a linebacker mentality to the position; made 108 stops last year.		
6.	**Tony Jefferson**	Jr.	Oklahoma
	Will be parked at FS this year after moving all over last season.		
7.	**Kenny Vaccaro**	Sr.	Texas
	Big hitter and game-changer, and yet another standout UT DB.		
8.	**Matt Elam**	Jr.	Florida
	SS gets into the backfield (11 TFLs) and is also fine in man coverage.		
9.	**Lamarcus Joyner**	Jr.	Florida State
	At 5-8, covers a lot of ground from SS spot; second-team All-ACC in 2011.		
10.	**Hakeem Smith**	Jr.	Louisville
	All-Big East safety already a veteran of 25 career starts.		
11.	**Earl Wolff**	Sr.	NC State
	Has forced seven fumbles and made 204 tackles in past two years.		
12.	**C.J. Barnett**	Jr.	Ohio State
	Led the Buckeyes with 75 tackles last season.		

PLAYER RATINGS

ALL PURPOSE

Oregon's 'Black Mamba' goes for the jugular

The Black Mamba is the fastest and one of the deadliest land snakes in the world.

Named for the black coloration of its mouth, the Black Mamba uses a variety of quick strikes while attacking its prey. Each bite delivers a lethal injection of deadly venom.

De'ANTHONY THOMAS

Photo by Kirby Lee-US PRESSWIRE

Oregon sophomore De'Anthony Thomas is sort of the football equivalent. He's devastating to defenses in versatility and impact to the point that the 5-9, 173-pound running back/wide receiver/kick returner has carried the moniker "Black Mamba" since elementary school.

"It's been following me throughout my whole career," Thomas said. "I got it from my game on the field being compared to a snake."

As a freshman in 2011, Thomas slithered, darted and struck his way to 18 touchdowns while taking the term "versatility" to extremes.

Many running backs catch passes out of the backfield. Wide receivers get the occasional carry. Each position produces fine kick returners. But few college football players have ever been so effective from all three positions.

Thomas was the only player in the country last year to surpass 400 yards in rushing, receiving, and kickoff return yardage. And while the Ducks had a Heisman Trophy candidate at running back in LaMichael James, Thomas still ranked 11th nationally in all-purpose yards (159.6 per game).

Now, Thomas is better versed in the Ducks' no-huddle, spread-option offense and is in the process of adding bulk to his slight frame.

"I think his role will expand for us, and it's exciting because he's such a talented kid," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "You still kind of catch yourself going, 'Wow!'"

Many have expressed a similar reaction while watching Thomas perform since he first touched a football.

Thomas received the nickname "Black Mamba" at age 11 while playing football for rapper Snoop Dogg's "Snoop Youth Football League" in Los Angeles. While at Crenshaw High School, he ran the 100 meters in 10.57 seconds. He is typically the fastest player on the field ... so, he has only the end zone on his mind.

"I expect to score, but you never know how fast a guy is, so you always want to go as fast as you can no matter what," Thomas said.

Thomas originally committed to USC as a senior before changing his mind weeks before Signing Day, 2011. Essentially, Thomas turned down the chance to be the next Reggie Bush at USC to become the first De'Anthony Thomas at Oregon.

Playing behind running backs LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner allowed Thomas to learn, while Kelly and offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich schemed ways to take advantage of his skills.

Kelly held one-on-one meetings with Thomas during the season to accelerate the learning process.

The strategy produced mind-blowing numbers for a freshman:

- Rushing: 55 carries for 595 yards (10.8 average), seven touchdowns.
- Receiving: 46 receptions, 605 yards (13.2 average), nine touchdowns.
- Kickoff returns: 36 for 983 yards (27.3 average), two touchdowns.
- Punt returns: 3 for 52 yards (17.3 average).

That's 140 touches for 2,235 yards (a 16-yard average), with his 18 touchdowns.

So what's next for Thomas? Try more touches for potentially more yards and more touchdowns. He will back up Barner this season at running back, but he'll play plenty at receiver, and of course return kicks.

"He's got the whole package both at wide receiver and running back," Kelly said. Whether or not Thomas' body could handle a larger workload out of the backfield remains a concern, although he said he plans to add five to seven pounds of muscle by the fall while maintaining his speed. Oregon running backs coach Gary Campbell said it's difficult to gauge Thomas' ability to handle punishment at the collegiate level because defenders have rarely gotten a clean hit on him.

Getting to Thomas is easier said than done. Just ask Oregon cornerback Terrance Mitchell.

"He's a quick dude. ... He's like a cat," Mitchell said. "So you have to be like a cat just like him."

Maybe, but a cat is no match for a Black Mamba.

— Aaron Fentress

TOP KICKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Caleb Sturgis**	Sr.	Florida
	Made 46 of 60 FGs for career with five coming from 50 yards or more.		
2.	**Dustin Hopkins**	Sr.	Florida State
	Man with the golden cleats was a Groza Award finalist last season.		
3.	**Quinn Sharp**	Sr.	Oklahoma State
	Best foot in the nation: Has been FWAA All-American as PK and P.		
4.	**Brett Maher**	Sr.	Nebraska
	Was 19 of 23 on FG attempts last season; only one miss from inside 50.		
5.	**Drew Alleman**	Sr.	LSU
	Made 16 of 18 FGs last season; knows what it's like to kick in the clutch.		
6.	**Zach Hocker**	Jr.	Arkansas
	Better than 80 percent in career (37 of 46 FGs) and great kickoff man.		
7.	**Michael Hunnicutt**	So.	Oklahoma
	Stability in the Sooners' kicking game: 21 of 24 FGs, long of 53.		
8.	**Andre Heidari**	So.	USC
	When Barkley and Co. aren't scoring TDs, he hits: 15 of 17, long of 50.		

TOP PUNTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**Brad Wing**	So.	LSU
	2011 All-American kept Bama pinned all day in regular-season game.		
2.	**Ryan Allen**	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
	Won the Ray Guy Award (46.1-yard average, 22 inside the 20).		
3.	**Quinn Sharp**	Sr.	Oklahoma State
	Has posted a 45.8-yard average across three seasons.		
4.	**Jackson Rice**	Sr.	Oregon
	Ducks didn't punt enough for Rice to qualify nationally with 45.9-yard average.		
5.	**Tress Way**	Sr.	Oklahoma
	2011: Placed 34 of 63 punts inside the 20 with only six touchbacks.		
6.	**Brian Schmiedebusch**	Jr.	Bowling Green
	Ranked sixth nationally in punting; BG was fifth in net punting.		
7.	**Ian Campbell**	Sr.	UTEP
	Has two-year average of 45.6 yards after transferring from JC.		
8.	**Dylan Breeding**	Sr.	Arkansas
	Yet another reason (45.3-yard average) why Hogs put foes on their heels.		

TOP ALL PURPOSE

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	**De'Anthony Thomas**	So.	Oregon
	With the right amount of touches, a Heisman isn't out of the question.		
2.	**Justin Gilbert**	Jr.	Oklahoma State
	An excellent CB; on kick returns, it's one move, track speed, TD.		
3.	**Andre Debose**	Jr.	Florida
	Big-play WR has three kick-returns for touchdowns in 40 attempts.		
4.	**Jamal Miles**	Sr.	Arizona State
	Three return TDs in 2011; a threat on laterals and quick passes.		
5.	**Greg Reid**	Sr.	Florida State
	One of top corners in the ACC and has three career punt return TDs.		
6.	**Dennis Johnson**	Sr.	Arkansas
	Helped fill in for RB Knile Davis; was second in SEC in all-purpose yards.		
7.	**Dustin Harris**	Sr.	Texas A&M
	Led nation in punt returns and is part of rotation at cornerback.		
8.	**Tyler Lockett**	So.	Kansas State
	WR had two kick return TDs; is son of former K-State star Kevin Lockett.		

UNIT RANKINGS

TOP10 BACKFIELDS

1. ARKANSAS

Here's how this works: We could rank the best quarterback groups in the country, and we could separately rate the running back units, but we like to mash them together and mix it up. It's more fun to look at who has the best quarterbacks *and* running backs ... so any one-hit wonders in either department need not apply.

The backfield has to be the complete package. Which brings us to Arkansas.

The double-shot of quarterback Tyler Wilson and running back Knile Davis — both third nationally in our player position rankings — gives the Razorbacks two realistic All-Americans and two first-round draft picks for next season.

Wilson fired for 3,638 yards last season and is still coached by a Petrino (offensive coordinator Paul, not head coach Bobby), while interim coach John L. Smith will serve as caretaker of the offense and let Wilson flourish.

While Davis was sitting last season with an ankle injury, Dennis Johnson and Ronnie Wingo filled in nicely, and both are back. But the Hogs are eager to see the return of Davis, who ran for 1,322 yards in 2010 and can be a difference-maker in the SEC.

2. MICHIGAN

Quarterback Denard Robinson leaves plenty to be desired as a passer, but he's as slippery as any running back in the country and just as able to completely take over a game with his feet. The senior has 3,229 career rushing yards and 35 touchdowns on the ground, which makes backfield mate Fitzgerald Toussaint jealous. He didn't earn the featured role until a month or so into last season, but then he finished with 678 yards in the final five regular-season games. And the Wolverines have high hopes for sophomore power back Thomas Rawls, all while scheming cool ways to get Robinson and backup Devin Gardner on the field at the same time.

3. USC

The Trojans' best option is to have the nation's best quarterback throw to the nation's best pair of receivers, but there is nothing wrong with Matt Barkley handing off to senior Curtis McNeal, who emerged around the middle of last season to finish with 1,005 yards. What's iffy is the depth, with no experience behind Barkley and uncommonly little behind McNeal, especially after a spring knee injury to Tre Madden.

4. GEORGIA

The Dawgs' Aaron Murray has had back-to-back 3,000-yard passing seasons and led Georgia to the SEC title game last year. Isaiah Crowell wasn't disappointing as a touted freshman last season — other than the two disciplinary suspensions — as he ran for 850 yards. Needing depth, the Bulldogs added

Photo by RD Moore

early enrollee freshman Keith Marshall, a national top 50 recruit whose quickness and instincts impressed coach Mark Richt in the spring.

5. KANSAS STATE

Senior quarterback Collin Klein is built like a linebacker and runs like a tailback. Last season, he tied Ricky Williams' Big 12 record with 27 rushing touchdowns, while setting school QB records for rushing yards (1,141), carries (317) and points (162). Klein also passed for 1,918 yards. Junior running back John Hubert rushed for 970 yards. And the system works because of effective blocking from senior fullback Braden Wilson.

6. TCU

The Horned Frogs are the only team in the nation that had three running backs over 700 yards in 2011: junior Waymon James (875, six touchdowns), senior Ed Wesley (726, six TDs) and senior Matthew Tucker (702, 12 TDs). Wesley ran for 1,078 yards in 2010. Junior Casey Pachall, who broke Andy Dalton's records for completions, yards and completion percentage, rallied his team from behind four times in 2011.

7. CLEMSON

The Tigers have another year of experience in the up-tempo offense and the returning personnel to burn rubber in the opener against Auburn (some reconstruction along the offensive line, notwithstanding). Quarterback Tajh Boyd passed for 3,828 yards last season, and running back Andre Ellington (1,178 yards, 11 touchdowns) returned after considering the NFL.

8. OKLAHOMA

Senior Landry Jones is the Sooners' leader in every career passing category and is about to become the school's career leader in victories. Hard-pounding senior Dominique Whaley (105 yards per game and nine TDs before a broken ankle) and junior scatback Roy Finch (605 rushing yards and 34 catches) are a nice 1-2 punch. Sophomore quarterback Blake Bell, Jones' backup, rushed for 13 TDs, and junior fullback Trey Millard plays all over the field. Expect major contributions from running back transfer Damien Williams, who led junior college last season with 1,931 yards and 30 touchdowns.

9. NEBRASKA

Gritty Rex Burkhead has a nose for the goal line (17 total touchdowns last year) and twice had at least 35 carries in a game. Junior quarterback Taylor Martinez will continue to frustrate defenses with his ability to slash-and-dash in the ground attack. The question is whether or not he'll continue to frustrate those in scarlet and cream with his inaccuracy.

10. ALABAMA

This final spot could have gone to North Carolina, maybe Oregon, even Fresno State — hello, Wisconsin! — but the tie goes to the national champions. Cool customer AJ McCarron is easy to appreciate at quarterback, and Tide fans will cling to him ever more tightly after the late-April transfer of backup Phillip Sims. New faces in the backfield — Eddie Lacy, Jalston Fowler, Dee Hart and early enrollee freshman T.J. Yeldon — have varying styles and fresh legs.

TOP10 RECEIVERS

1. USC

Robert Woods and Marqise Lee aren't just the best pair of receivers in the country this season, they could be the best pair of receivers in just about any season.

Here are just the raw numbers from last year: 184 catches for 2,435 yards and 26 touchdowns. And that was when Woods was a sophomore and Lee a true freshman. They just might be better now. Woods lines up everywhere in different formations, as USC is always probing the matchups. But not even Woods is as dangerous after the catch as Lee.

Who is behind these guys? Does it matter? Yes, transfers have thinned the backup spots, with one of the beneficiaries being sophomore George Farmer — giving USC a first-team trio of receivers who were all teammates at Gardena (Calif.) Serra High School.

2. CLEMSON

Sophomore Sammy Watkins was, like USC's Lee, a freshman sensation last season, overshadowing Tigers' junior DeAndre Hopkins. Hopkins got the message, giving up playing hoops for Clemson last winter and having a fabulous spring practice, able to add strength and weight and better battle for balls. Watkins won't get worse after catching 82 passes for 1,219 yards and 12 touchdowns, and look for Hopkins to improve on his 72-catch season.

3. WEST VIRGINIA

Senior Tavon Austin led the nation with 2,574 all-purpose yards (198 per game), including a school-record 101 catches for 1,186 yards and eight touchdowns in the Big East. Junior Stedman Bailey is a top deep threat, averaging 17.8 yards per catch with seven 100-yard games in 2011 (school record 1,279 yards and 12 TDs). Junior Ivan McCartney chipped in 49 catches for 585 yards and three scores.

4. TENNESSEE

The Vols get better in a hurry with the return of rangy 6-4 Justin Hunter, known as "Gumby" for his ability to contort and stretch for any pass within his significant leaping ability and wingspan. Hunter, who missed most of last season because of a knee injury, rejoins Da'Rick Rogers (67 catches, 1,040 yards, nine touchdowns), while both welcome talented newcomers, including JC star Cordarrelle Patterson.

5. OKLAHOMA

Junior Kenny Stills (61 catches in each of his first two years) and Jaz Reynolds (715 yards, 17.4 per catch last year) are returning starters, though both had the drops last season. However, the Sooners' best two receivers might be newcomers: junior college transfer Courtney Gardner and freshman Trey Metoyer, who was the top high school wideout in the nation in 2010. He played at prep school in 2011 and was the Sooners' best wideout in the spring.

6. WASHINGTON STATE

This is probably the deepest spot for the Cougars, which is the right way to be when head coach Mike Leach walks through that door. These receivers will post numbers, none moreso than junior star Marquess Wilson, who could become Leach's Michael Crabtree of the Northwest, although the coach was on Wilson's case this spring for a lack of effort. There was nothing wrong with Wilson's effort last season: 82 catches for 1,388 yards and 12 touchdowns.

7. ARKANSAS

A pipeline to the NFL hasn't depleted Tyler Wilson's targets. Wideout Cobi Hamilton and tight end Chris Gragg moved up the receiving hierarchy this spring, ready to cash their tickets. Sophomore Marquel Wade previewed his shifty skills in the return game last season and now will be a playmaker in the passing game.

8. FLORIDA STATE

Explosive sophomore Rashad Greene, who had 597 receiving yards and seven touchdowns last year, is a star in the making. He averaged 15.7 yards per catch. Five of the Seminoles' top six receivers return for quarterback EJ Manuel.

9. GEORGIA

Coach Mark Richt dared in the spring to move dynamic wideout Malcolm Mitchell to defense in order to shore up depth at cornerback. Turns out, the 6-1 sophomore has skills there, too. Maybe the coaches will play tug-of-war with Mitchell, maybe they share him, but Richt won't want to be without his best deep threat for too long. Senior Tavarres King keeps coming on, making 47 catches for 705 yards last season.

10. TEXAS TECH

The Red Raiders retain their top three pass-catchers from last season, led by Eric Ward, who picked up some second-team All-Big 12 honors last season after catching 84 passes for 800 yards and 11 touchdowns.

TOP10 OFFENSIVE LINES

1. ALABAMA

At the end of spring ball, Alabama had NFL-DraftScout's top-rated senior center (Barrett Jones), its third-rated senior guard (Chance Warmack), its third-rated junior tackle (D.J. Fluker) and its No. 1 sophomore tackle (Cyrus Kouandjio). Not much of that is a stretch, with Kouandjio muscling into the starting lineup and moving Jones to his third position in three years.

2. LSU

The Tigers have four returning starters, with the nation's best pair of tackles — Alex Hurst and Chris Faulk. Senior guard Josh Dworaczyk, who has started 26 games, is back after missing last season because of a knee injury. LSU isn't waiting on him. The depth is such that sophomore La'el Collins came out of spring with the starting job. For now.

3. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners have four returning starters (junior left guard Gabe Ikard, senior center Ben Habern, senior right guard Tyler Evans, senior right tackle-to-left tackle Lane Johnson) and a fifth (sophomore right guard Adam Shead) who started half the season. This group helped OU average 4.5 yards per carry and allowed only 11 sacks last season.

Robert Woods

Photo by John Pyle

4. TEXAS A&M

The Aggies might not be ready to hang with new SEC West pal LSU right away, but they don't have to concede much on the offensive line, especially at tackle. Luke Joeckel and Jake Matthews are junior three-year starters, having already graduated from what *Lindy's* described last season as "beasts in the making" to full-on monsters.

5. WISCONSIN

Despite routinely losing personnel to the NFL, the Badgers rarely get caught short-handed on the line. Ricky Wagner will keep the quarterback's blindside free from trouble, while Travis Frederick can dominate at guard or center. File this name away for the future: Dan Voltz, who impressed after enrolling in January as a freshman.

6. WEST VIRGINIA

Four full-time starters return, including senior center Joe Madsen, who has made 38 career starts and is one of the best in the country at his position. Left guard Josh Jenkins, who redshirted last season because of a knee injury, has 24 career starts.

7. NORTH CAROLINA

The Tar Heels bring back four starters, who still might be catching their breath from the fast-paced spring practices of new coach Larry Fedora. With left tackle James Hurst and left guard Jonathan Cooper having All-ACC talent, the smart money is on North Carolina getting in shape and being able to plow foes in the fourth quarter.

8. MICHIGAN STATE

The heart of the Spartans' offensive attack will be a thick front line led by guard Chris McDonald and tackle Fou Fonoti. Having one of the conference's most experienced lines will help ease the loss of all-conference pick Joel Foreman.

9. OKLAHOMA STATE

Three starters are gone to the NFL, but senior guard Lane Taylor (36 career starts) is a plow horse and senior guard Jonathan Rush (16 career starts) is back after a knee injury. Senior tackle Michael Bowie and Parker Graham each have five career starts. Even new center Evan Epstein is a senior.

10. TENNESSEE

This could be a reach. The Vols were a woeful running team last season, reflecting poorly on the line. This also could be a savvy projection, with five returning starters — not untalented, mind you — looking to make amends. If this pick doesn't work out, send your criticisms to Derek Dooley before UT pulls the plug on his university e-mail.

UNIT RANKINGS

TOP10 DEFENSIVE LINES

1. LSU

We'd like this group even better if it still had NFL early entry defensive tackle Michael Brockers, a first-round pick, but we're also pretty sure we can't rate the Tigers any higher than No. 1.

LSU had such depth last season — and still has so much of it — that end Barkevious Mingo started only four games ... and still had 15 tackles for loss, eight sacks and 11 quarterback hurries. Returning starting end Sam Montgomery had 13.5 tackles for loss, with nine sacks. Bennie Logan (57 tackles) is back at a tackle spot.

Our pals at NFLDraftScout.com projected in the spring that each of these juniors would be top 25 picks in the 2013 Draft. By that time, they should be wearing national championship rings.

2. FLORIDA STATE

FSU's defensive line is starting to look like many of the ones of yesteryear — the ones with Corey Simon, Derrick Alexander and Andre Wadsworth ... those kind of guys.

FSU didn't allow any of its final eight opponents last season to score more than 19 points, and let's credit a line that returns three starters. The Seminoles jumped to fourth last season in total defense — better than anybody outside of the SEC — and ranked second in rushing defense.

Senior end Brandon Jenkins, somehow not in the NFL yet after making 36.5 career tackles for loss, saw a dip in his stats last season, if only because of all the extra blocking attention. Junior end Bjoern Werner and senior defensive tackle Everett Dawkins will keep taking advantage.

3. SOUTH CAROLINA

The Gamecocks will put their defensive ends — 6-6 sophomore Jadeveon Clowney and 6-8 Devin Taylor — up against those in Baton Rouge and Tallahassee. Clowney, the nation's top recruit in 2011, had eight sacks and five forced fumbles last season while just running around and being an excitable freshman. He's smarter and stronger as a sophomore, when the coaches will also slide him inside, looking for mismatches. Senior Devin Taylor is an All-SEC-caliber pass rusher at the other end, while sophomore tackle Kelcy Quarles is coming off a Freshman All-American season.

4. GEORGIA

Nobody has nose guards like the Bulldogs, who have a talented pair of 350-pounders — give or take breakfast — in John Jenkins and Kwame Geathers. Coordinator Todd Grantham tinkered in the spring, using them in the same alignment, and not just at the goal line, an idea that has a chance to work because of Jenkins' athleticism. Let's just call this the biggest three-man front in America, including 309-pound end Abry Jones and 269-pound end Cornelius Washington, a speedy former outside linebacker.

5. TCU

Junior end Stansly Maponga is in the recent mold of TCU's undersized but super-quick pass rushers. He had nine sacks, 13.5 tackles for loss and five forced fumbles last season. Senior end Ross Forrest, a former walk-on, had six tackles for loss; sophomore defensive tackle David Johnson, a Freshman All-American in '11, had seven.

6. TEXAS

Senior Alex Okafor, a first-team All-American in 2011, needs to be in the discussion as the nation's best defensive end. On the other end, junior Jackson Jeffcoat was second-team All-Big 12. That duo combined for 15 sacks and 35 tackles for loss. At tackle, junior college transfer Brandon Moore could help immediately.

7. MICHIGAN STATE

No Jerel Worthy, no problem. William Gholston is one of the nation's best athletes on the edge, and fellow end Marcus Rush (yes, that's the last name we want for our defensive ends) drew national recognition for his freshman campaign. Their ability to get into the backfield (a combined 28 tackles for loss last season) will lessen the load on the interior line, where Anthony Rashad White had an impressive spring.

Photo by Derick E. Hingle-US PRESSWIRE

8. OHIO STATE

All four starters return to a line that is looking to improve upon OSU's No. 50 national ranking in rushing defense. John Simon is one of the Big Ten's best and most reliable linemen; his 6-4, 317-pound teammate Johnathan Hankins might possess the most potential at the next level. They combined for 27 tackles for loss last season.

9. FLORIDA

Defensive end Ronald Powell's spring ACL tear was a blow, figuring to keep him out until at least October. Coach Will Muschamp still has dominant pieces to deploy in end Sharrif Floyd, who could move inside to tackle, and tackle Dominique Easley, who could slide outside to end. Such interesting options to have with guys who weigh around 300 pounds.

10. VIRGINIA TECH

The line returns intact for what has a chance to rank with the Hokies' finest defenses. Defensive end James Gayle leads the unit and should push for ACC Defensive Player of the Year honors.

TOP10 LINEBACKERS

1. GEORGIA

Jarvis Jones, who began his career at Southern California, was an All-American in his first season at Georgia last year, fitting in perfectly into the Bulldogs' 3-4 scheme. He's the NFL prototype for an outside linebacker — one of those get-into-the-backfield guys who go high in the first round. Jones had 13.5 sacks and 19.5 tackles for loss last season.

All of his linebacker pals are back, including Alec Ogletree, a former safety whose speed is a wonderful asset on the inside, especially when he's free to roam because those 350-pound nose guards keep blockers off of him.

2. IOWA STATE

Arguably the two best linebackers in the Big 12 — and one of the most productive tandems in the nation — play in Ames. Senior A.J. Klein (116 tackles, 7.5 for loss) was the Big 12's Co-Defensive Player of the Year in 2011, and senior Jake Knott (115 tackles, four forced fumbles) was also a first-team All-Big 12 pick.

3. ALABAMA

Dont'a Hightower is gone, taken in the first round of the NFL Draft, and Courtney Upshaw went high in the second round. Coach Nick Saban will just blow his whistle, start the assembly line and crank out more for 2013. It's called "NFL ready" ... and the Tide will

have two more in senior Nico Johnson and junior C.J. Mosley, while Saban carves out space in the rotation for all his former five-star recruits.

4. STANFORD

Stanford has four starters back in its 3-4 scheme, plus Shayne Skov, who is making his way back from a knee injury suffered early last season. The Cardinal was third nationally against the run last season — so these linebackers are active and tough — and outside linebacker Chase Thomas led the league with 17.5 tackles for loss. Trent Murphy had 10 TFLs on the other side.

5. WISCONSIN

Bucky brings back two of the Big Ten's top five tacklers — Mike Taylor (10.7 per game) and Chris Borland (10.2). Both earned first-team nods and are experienced enough to help the team bring along a new face to start opposite Taylor on the outside.

6. OREGON

Michael Clay is coming off a 102-tackle season from the weak side, with returning starter Boseko Lokombo doing more of the dirty work on the strong side. Middle linebacker Kiko Alonso has a chance to be dominating — that's defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti's word — and will be looking to build off his Rose Bowl performance, when he was Defensive Player of the Game.

7. PENN STATE

Linebacker U remains. First-team All-Big 12 performer Gerald Hodges is among the best in the nation, while Michael Mauti is inching his way toward 100 percent after rehabbing a torn left ACL (at least now he has a matching set of surgically repaired knees).

8. MICHIGAN STATE

Chris Norman has made 23 starts and is a veteran complement to fellow outside 'backer Denicos Allen, whose 11 sacks last season are the most among returning Big Ten defenders. Max Bullough controls the middle of the field as well as any Big Ten linebacker.

9. FLORIDA

The Gators can always count on Jonathan Bostic, a heady middle linebacker who led the team with 94 tackles last season — 10 for loss. The man with big-time NFL upside is Jelani Jenkins, but he first needs to translate that athleticism into more game-changing plays for Florida.

10. USC

It's an all-sophomore starting crew, with Pac-12 Defensive Freshman of the Year Dion Bailey on one side and Hayes Pullard on the other — they shared the team lead in tackles. Middle linebacker Lamar Dawson, who supplanted now-departed veteran Chris Galippo halfway through last season, further settled into a comfort zone and leadership role in the spring.

Photo by Joe Robbins

TOP10 DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. LSU

You can't not love the Honey Badger. In two years, Tyrann Mathieu has 15 tackles for loss, including six sacks, 14 pass break-ups, four interceptions, 11 forced fumbles, eight recoveries and two punt return touchdowns. That's a busy, busy Badger. And he might not be the Tiger's best pure cover man, even after Morris Claiborne left early for the NFL.

While Mathieu is 5-9, Tharold Simon is 6-3, and he broke up 10 passes last season in a rotational role. "He looked like he was 6-7 because he's all arms and legs," an opposing SEC coach told *Lindy's*. "He looked like a damn spider."

Throw in All-America candidate Eric Reid at free safety ... and the Tigers could have the nation's top defensive back for the third year in a row, following Patrick Peterson and Claiborne. Take your pick.

2. NC STATE

The Wolfpack has been a big-play outfit in the past couple of seasons, leading the nation last year with 27 interceptions — an amazing 13 coming from cornerback David Amerson. He and rest of the starting secondary return for more in 2012, having combined for 114 career starts.

3. USC

Free safety T.J. McDonald pulled a Barkley by staying for his senior season. Consider McDonald the quarterback of the defense, and a terrific spring portends an All-America season. Nickell Robey, a feisty 5-8, is one of the top cornerbacks in the Pac-12 and helps make this one of the deepest units in an otherwise thin lineup.

4. TEXAS

Junior Carrington Byndom was first-team All-Big 12 last season, and teams with impressive sophomore Quandre Diggs as a pair of formidable corners. Senior SS Kenny Vaccaro, another first-team All-Big 12 performer, has a relentless flair that gives a needed edge to the Longhorns' defense.

5. GEORGIA

The Bulldogs, who swiped an SEC-best 20 passes last season, will have to get by early in the season without returning All-America safety Bacarri Rambo, who was suspended. Other defensive backs also will have to sit out for a bit, but the Dawgs will be at full strength for the bulk of their schedule.

6. ALABAMA

The Tide will use movable parts — deep and talented movable parts — around safety Robert Lester, whose return for his senior season provides a high baseline for confidence. Look for cornerback Dee Milliner and safety Vinnie Sunseri to excel in expanded roles.

7. OKLAHOMA

Junior Tony Jefferson, one of the Big 12's best tacklers, takes his 21 career starts to free safety. Senior safety Javon Harris, victimized deep throughout 2011, moves down low. Senior Demontre Hurst is one of the Big 12's best cover men and a fierce hitter, while junior Aaron Colvin, who has played all over the secondary, is maybe the Sooners' top defensive playmaker.

8. FLORIDA STATE

The Seminoles intercepted 16 passes and ranked 25th nationally in passing efficiency defense last year. Cornerbacks Xavier Rhodes and Greg Reid, and safety Lamarcus Joyner — all veterans, are honors candidates so expect similarly good results for FSU.

9. OKLAHOMA STATE

The cornerbacks are playmakers. Senior Brodrick Brown was first-team All-Big 12 in 2011, and junior Justin Gilbert was second-team. Junior free safety Daytawion Lowe led the Cowboys with 97 tackles and three forced fumbles.

10. MICHIGAN STATE

Yet another defensive strength for Michigan State. Johnny Adams is an All-America candidate, and Darqueze Dennard isn't shabby at the opposite corner. Safety Isaiah Lewis returned two of his team-leading four interceptions last year for touchdowns.

Illustration by Tim Williams

USC vs. MICHIGAN
For the good of the game?

BY ANTHONY GIMINO AND DENNIS DODD

THE SEC IS JUST TOO DOMINANT FOR THE REST OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL

What this college football season needs is a bolt of lightning. Or two. Actually, it might take a whole bucket full.

Because the way the SEC has had its way with the rest of college football lately, it's getting monotonous.

For everyone outside the SEC, the end of the college football season has turned into a horror story. Fans in the Midwest, Pacific Coast, Southwest and Northeast have been left shivering around a campfire listening to Nick Saban, with a flashlight under his chin, telling spooky tales of 300-pound defensive tackles who run like linebackers and suck the souls of opposing quarterbacks.

The SEC dominance, while profound, is getting old. It's time for the rest of college football to start shining its light.

The whole of college football needs the best conference in college football to punch each other out. This year, we need a bunch of two-loss SEC teams.

That the SEC has won six consecutive national titles is just great for the SEC, especially the state of Alabama. Good for the league. Well played. God bless.

Face it: That two SEC teams — LSU and Alabama — held a rematch in last year's national championship game wasn't so wonderful for the big picture. It resulted in the third-lowest TV ratings in the 14 years of the BCS and was a relative yawner of a game, a defensive slog.

Instead, picture a season in which Alabama beats LSU, Arkansas beats Alabama, Florida beats Georgia, South Carolina beats Florida ... you get the idea. The in-conference wreckage would be just enough that two teams from other conferences could stroll to Miami for the BCS Championship Game without having to fear LSU or Alabama or any of those other unbeatable SEC teams.

You know, something like USC vs. Michigan.

Those traditions. Those fan bases. Those quarterbacks. Those helmets. Those comeback stories — Michigan from its internal demons

of the Rich Rodriguez "era;" USC from its messy post-Pete Carroll transition.

Michigan, the winningest program in college football history, has never played in one of these BCS title games. The Trojans won one (just ask them), but the record book doesn't show it because it was vacated due to sanctions. Now, they are re-emerging from two years in lockup, as LA-sexy as ever.

Sorry, SEC. That matchup sounds like a double-shot of adrenaline compared to more yawn-twins from the land of smashmouth.

We get it. The SEC is the best. It will, indisputably, collectively, be the very best conference again this year. Bigger *and* better. But we can dream of some new blood, can't we?

At least we can until the first week of the season when, in Dallas, in Jerry Jones' man-cave, Michigan opens against ... Alabama.

CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT

Seven of the 11 conferences have a different look this season, including the addition of four programs to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

College football is about at halftime of the whole realignment movement.

Last season saw the expansion of the Pac-10 and Big Ten (as well as shuffling in the Mountain West and WAC). And we're still waiting for the final shoes to drop on ACC expansion (Pitt, Syracuse) and the ensuing waves of change that will lead to a geographically incongruent Big East (Boise State, San Diego State, Houston, SMU, etc.) and new looks for Conference USA and the Mountain West.

But, hey, one year at a time. For this year, here is how realignment affects your conference standings for 2012:

SEC (14 teams, 2 divisions)
In: Missouri (East), Texas A&M (West)

Big 12 (10 teams, no divisions)
In: TCU, West Virginia
Out: Missouri, Texas A&M

Big East (8 teams)
In: Temple **Out:** West Virginia

MAC (13 teams, 2 divisions)
In: UMass (East) **Out:** Temple

MWC (10 teams)
In: Fresno State, Hawaii, Nevada **Out:** TCU

Sun Belt (10 teams)
In: South Alabama

WAC (7 teams, no divisions)
In: Texas-San Antonio, Texas State
Out: Fresno State, Hawaii, Nevada

BCS MATCHUPS

The BCS National Championship Game heads to Miami. Here's how *Lindy's* sees the biggest games shaking out this season:

ROSE BOWL
TUESDAY, JAN. 1
PASADENA, CALIF. * ROSE BOWL
BIG TEN #1 VS. PAC-12 #1
LINDY'S PICK: MICHIGAN VS. OREGON

ORANGE BOWL
TUESDAY, JAN. 1
MIAMI * SUN LIFE STADIUM
ACC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: FLORIDA STATE VS. LOUISVILLE

SUGAR BOWL
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2
NEW ORLEANS, LA. * LOUISIANA SUPERDOME
SEC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: ALABAMA VS. WEST VIRGINIA

FIESTA BOWL
THURSDAY, JAN. 3
GLENDALE, ARIZ. * UNIV. OF PHOENIX STADIUM
BIG 12 #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE
LINDY'S PICK: OKLAHOMA VS. MICHIGAN STATE

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
MONDAY, JAN. 7
MIAMI * SUN LIFE STADIUM
BCS #1 VS. BCS #2
LINDY'S PICK: LSU VS. USC

HEISMAN WATCH

There is always a certain logic to handicapping the Heisman race in the preseason. Quarterback; Top 10 team; name recognition — they're the holy trinity of Heisman indicators.

Funny how the past three years have made pretzels out of our logic.

- Alabama running back Mark Ingram? Oh, he was a nice time-share running back ...
- Cam Newton? Merely a junior college transfer taking over an Auburn team that had lost five of its last eight games in 2009.
- Robert Griffin III? A Heisman winner at Baylor? Hahahahaha ...

In the age of constant highlights, we can't really be sure of anything anymore in the Heisman race, although we'll stick with as much logic as we can muster for now. Here are 10 players who, out of the gate, have the best shot:

1. Matt Barkley, QB, USC — All he has to do is match his numbers from last season (3,528 yards, 39 touchdowns) and get the Trojans to the BCS national title game (oh, is that all?) ... and the stiff-armed trophy is his.

2. Denard Robinson, QB, Michigan — Four of the past six Heisman winners have been dual-threat quarterbacks (Troy Smith, Tim Tebow, Newton, RG III). Robinson fits the bill, even as Michigan tries to squeeze more passing out of its attack. (Let him run, Brady!)

3. Montee Ball, RB, Wisconsin — Only one running back has won the Heisman this millennium (Ingram in 2009, when he benefitted from a championship team and a modest cast of competitors). For Ball to win, he just might have to get past 2,000 yards ... which he came within one long run of doing last season when he hit 1,923.

4. Geno Smith, QB, West Virginia — He's playing in a Dana Holgorsen-designed offense, so his numbers will rate with anybody in the nation. But he's not just a product of the system.

5. Landry Jones, QB, Oklahoma — Had one of the least memorable seasons for someone who passed for nearly 4,500 yards and 29 touchdowns. It's just that Jones' sophomore year was statistically superior, and the Sooners didn't live up to 2011's preseason No. 1 billing. Perhaps this is the year.

6. Tyrann Mathieu, DB/RET, LSU — The combination of "Badger Plays," his return game and a team poised to be on the biggest stage give Mathieu more Heisman hope than just your regular star defender. Besides, he got to New York last year, so his name recognition is huge.

7. De'Anthony Thomas, RB/WR, Oregon — Chip Kelly is no dummy. Whether he deploys Thomas more as a running back or receiver (plus returner), the sophomore is going to get all the touches he can handle, which means he will provide as many thrills as anyone in the country.

8. Marcus Lattimore, RB, South Carolina — This all spins on the health of his knee coming back from ACL surgery and if he can hold up for 12 punishing regular-season games. If so, his ceiling is as high as any.

9. Aaron Murray, QB, Georgia — The SEC's best quarterback, and the Bulldogs have a sneaky-good feel about them this season. (Hey, that's what we wrote about Murray last year, too!)

10. Tyler Wilson, QB, Arkansas — No, wait. Wilson is the best quarterback in the SEC! We'll see how it all plays out, but his QB rival at Georgia has a better shot at winning his division, which counts for something. SEC quarterbacks have won two of the past five Heismans.

FEBRUARY CHAMPIONS

Rivals.com assigns a point total to each of the school's recruiting classes every year, but a team can't be great based on just one recruiting class. Who's done it the best for five years? Let's add up all those points and see the answer.

OK, big shock: Alabama's Nick Saban. He has two national titles to show for it, and it would be no surprise if more are on the way. But celebrating on Signing Day is only part of the winning equation.

Be careful what you brag about. Nine of the top 15 teams in this recruiting snapshot have had at least one losing season in the past five years (and another, USC, is coming off a two-year postseason ban).

Here are the best recruiting teams of the past five years:

TEAM	POINTS
1. Alabama	13,183
2. USC	12,080
3. Florida	11,827
4. Texas	11,825
5. Florida State	10,986
6. LSU	10,761
7. Ohio State	10,602
8. Oklahoma	10,124
9. Georgia	10,039
10. Auburn	9,564
11. Michigan	9,269
12. Miami	8,612
13. Clemson	8,536
14. UCLA	8,148
15. Tennessee	8,144

(**Editor's note:** *Don't ask what the points mean ... it's too complicated!*)

RULE CHANGES FOR 2012

The change that most affects the game comes on kickoffs, in an effort to decrease what is considered the most dangerous play in football.

The NCAA moved up the spot where toe meets leather from the 30- to the 35-yard line, making it easier for kickers to reach the end zone, thereby increasing touchbacks and reducing the high-speed, injury-causing collisions.

At the same time, returners are encouraged to take a knee in the end zone, since offenses will now begin possession on the

25 instead of the 20.

While some coaches will be content to take the touchback, others might strategize. A high kick near the goal line might often result in a tackle inside the 25. Is it worth the risk? We'll see how coaches play this.

Elsewhere, there is new regulation for blocking below the waist and a banning of leaping over the punt protection shield. One new rule that will be noticed is that a player must miss a snap if he loses his helmet during a play.

STOP THE RUN!

We're not here to tell you that stopping the run is the most important ingredient in having a championship team, because you know that. (Turnover margin is a close second.) But here are some numbers that back it up.

- Two of the past 10 national champs have led the nation in rushing defense.
- Half of the title teams in the past 10 years ranked in the national top three against the run.
- Only one champion — 2005 Texas — ranked worse than 15th nationally against the run, and that Longhorns team had Vince Young to score as many as needed.

National Champions: Rushing Defense

Year	Champion	Rank	YPG
2011	Alabama	1	72.2
2010	Auburn	9	109.1
2009	Alabama	2	78.1
2008	Florida	15	105.4
2007	LSU	12	106.1
2006	Florida	5	72.5
2005	Texas	33	130.9
2004	USC	1	79.4
2003	LSU	3	67.0
2002	Ohio State	3	77.7

What does it mean for this season? If you really like a team against the run, you might want to head to Vegas. We recommend checking out our list of the top 10 defensive lines in the country elsewhere in the magazine.

Illustration by Tim Williams

THE TWEET LIFE

When Arizona athletic director Greg Byrne fired Mike Stoops at midseason, he and his marketing staff set out a strategy to unveil whoever became the next head coach. That plan included top-level secrecy and breaking the news via Twitter.

Welcome to football/life/technology/social media in 2012.

Byrne followed through on the idea, improved upon after a suggestion from his wife, Regina.

"We were flying into the Detroit airport to pick up Coach (Rich) Rodriguez and his family and I asked her, 'What should I put in the tweet?'" Byrne said. "And it was her idea to use a picture."

So Regina snapped a picture of her husband with the Rodriguez family, and Byrne tweeted: "And the new Arizona football coach and his family is....." with a link to a photo. As of late April, that photo had been viewed more than 68,000 times.

It is believed to be the first major coaching hire announced via Twitter, and it surely isn't going to be the last.

Whether it's hirings and firings, recruiting news, injury updates, practice reports, press conference ramblings or in-game reports, fans and media alike are twitcuffed to their smartphones. The fullest experience of being a college football fan is waiting on Twitter — with players, schools, reporters and, *ahem*, the staff of venerable preseason magazines offering an overload of information.

Some of it valuable.

- Twitter was the only place for immediate and unfiltered reaction from Pitt players when Todd Graham bolted for Arizona State after only one season. Several Panthers, feeling burned by the coach's sudden departure, took to their Twitter accounts, including defensive end Brandon Lindsey, who wrote: "For someone who said they read the Bible everyday, he must've missed the pg that said 'thou shall not lie.'"
- Mississippi State painted a Twitter hashtag — #HAILSTATE — in one of its endzones for last year's game against Ole Miss. Michigan and Arkansas followed suit with promotional hashtags on their fields for their spring games.
- As of late April, Matt Barkley — *Lindy's* preseason Offensive Player of the Year — had more than 53,000 followers. That's a start. Our preseason Defensive Player of the Year, Tyrann Mathieu, had close to a staggering 115,000.

Get on board ... or get left behind.

"It's just the reality of the world we're in that news and information is going to break on Twitter, so who's going to be the one to break it?" Byrne said.

The breaking news is nice — for example, Notre Dame announced with a tweet this spring that defensive end Aaron Lynch was transferring — but athletic departments everywhere are wary of TMI — too much information.

Compliance staffs are monitoring athlete's accounts for offensive comments — Michigan pulled its scholarship offer from four-star cornerback Yuri Wright after a series of foul tweets this winter — while educating players and boosters about improper contact with recruits. Notre Dame tight end Tyler Eifert ran afoul of the NCAA rule book when he mentioned a recruit's official campus visit on his Twitter account.

"Getting your arms around it completely is easier said than done," Byrne said. "We set guidelines for our athletes and I tell them, 'Just imagine that whatever you put on your account will end on the ESPN ticker.' That registers with some more than others."

Purdue coach Danny Hope scoffed at the use of Twitter this spring, saying, "To me, tweeting is a lot like keeping a diary. Back in the day, men didn't keep diaries to share our secrets, so I don't get the Twitter thing."

COACHING CHANGES

Given who has returned to the sidelines this fall, 2012 in college football is the Year of the Comeback Coaches.

Six guys who spent time out of the major college game are back for another go in careers that have featured some high peaks.

Urban Meyer and Rich Rodriguez won 10 games multiple times and hope to reprise that success in new locales. The others — Terry Bowden, Mike Leach, Bob Davie and Charlie Weis — also had moments of greatness and are back at it.

Add former NFL head coach Jim Mora Jr., and that's seven noteworthy names to jump all at once right back into the fray.

The coming season also affords some former offensive "gurus" the chance to show that their acumen stretches beyond the coordinator's office. Norm Chow, Paul Chryst, Jim McElwain and Gus Malzahn will undoubtedly find new challenges now that they are responsible for whole football teams.

Fourteen of the 27 jobs that changed hands came in the six BCS automatic-qualifying conferences, including four in the Pacific 12 and three apiece in the Big Ten and SEC.

Of course, the roster of college head coaches lacks the name Joe Paterno for the first time in 47 years. Following his removal at Penn State in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky scandal, Paterno died in January after a short battle with lung cancer.

Also not coaching this fall, for a variety of reasons, are former sideline fixtures Bobby Petrino, Howard Schnellenberger, Pat Hill, Ron Zook, Houston Nutt and Rick Neuheisel.

Akron

Out: Rob Ianello | **In:** Terry Bowden

Bowden ended a 10-year hiatus from coaching in 2009 when he left a broadcasting career to take over at Division II North Alabama. Three playoff appearances later, he earned the surprise hire at Akron, which hasn't had a winning season since 2005 and was 2-22 in Ianello's only two seasons. The Zips have fantastic facilities, and Bowden has a fertile recruiting ground in Northeast Ohio, which has given birth to unwavering optimism with their goofy kangaroo mascot ... and new T-shirts that read, "Fear the Dadgum Roo."

Arizona

Out: Mike Stoops | **In:** Rich Rodriguez

The Wildcats hope the classic "polar opposite" hire can eventually get them to their first Rose Bowl. Out goes Stoops, a defensive specialist with little public presence, and in comes the glad-handing RichRod, with his flashy offense. Rodriguez's defense couldn't stop anyone at Michigan, but this time he convinced his former West Virginia coordinator, Jeff Casteel, to come along for the ride and install his 3-3-5 scheme.

Arizona State

Out: Dennis Erickson | **In:** Todd Graham

After the Sun Devils reportedly put so much of their eggs in Kevin Sumlin's basket, it took them a while to figure out what to do after Sumlin went instead to Texas A&M. Rich Rodriguez's former linebackers coach at West Virginia, Graham had spent 11 months in Pittsburgh, where the Panthers went 6-6. Comically, he was quoted as calling three of his assistants who left for Rodriguez's staff "nothing but mercenaries," and two weeks later left for ASU to go head-up with those guys. He will be leading his fourth team in seven seasons (Rice, Tulsa, Pitt, ASU).

Arkansas

Out: Bobby Petrino | **In:** John L. Smith

Petrino's 21-5 record the past two seasons and the return of quarterback Tyler Wilson and running back Knile Davis, among many others, had Hog fans thinking BCS title. Then he had to go for a Sunday-afternoon motorcycle ride and the whole thing came crashing down in a scandal that harkens to another Arkansan and a previous, uh, personal shortcoming (that one was in the White House).

Arkansas State

Out: Hugh Freeze | **In:** Gus Malzahn

The most head-scratching job change of the offseason belongs to Malzahn, who was making $1.3 million as Auburn's offensive coordinator before taking a half-million-dollar pay cut to take over the Red Wolves, who got to go to the GoDaddy.com Bowl as a reward for a 10-win season last year. Coach Hugh Freeze's reward for his one year at ASU was a rich contract at Ole Miss. If Malzahn had any second thoughts over his decision, they probably multiplied when Bobby Petrino melted down at Arkansas. That could have been Malzahn's job, if only the timing were different.

Colorado State

Out: Steve Fairchild | **In:** Jim McElwain

Colorado State put up $6.5 million and a five-year deal to grab McElwain away from Alabama, where the Tide won two BCS titles in his three years as offensive coordinator. Moving to Fort Collins is a nice move for the Missoula, Mont., native, who played at Eastern Washington, coached at EWU and Montana State, spent a year on Art Shell's staff with the Oakland Raiders, and was the offensive coordinator at Fresno State when Nick Saban called in 2008. He won't have much pressure immediately, given the Rams' 3-9 marks in each of the past three years.

Florida Atlantic

Out: Howard Schnellenberger | **In:** Carl Pelini

Bo Pelini's big brother gets his chance as a head coach. Schnellenberger deserved better than a 1-11 farewell in the final season of a sterling career that saw him recruit Joe Namath to Alabama to play for Bear Bryant, start the Miami dynasty with freshman QB Bernie Kosar, win a national title in 1983 and take Louisville to a Fiesta Bowl. He shepherded FAU into Division I and built the 30,000-seat stadium that Pelini will try to fill.

Fresno State

Out: Pat Hill | **In:** Tim DeRuyter

Hill took Fresno State to the precipice by "playing anybody, anytime, anywhere," but could never quite get the Bulldogs over the top. Still, it was a shock when FSU canned him following 11 bowl games in 15 seasons. DeRuyter, a Californian who

spent the past two years as Texas A&M's defensive coordinator, faces a challenge duplicating Hill's 112-80 record. But bettering Hill's 40-41 mark over his final seven seasons is definitely do-able.

Hawaii

Out: Greg McMackin | **In:** Norm Chow

It took five schools, four decades and three national championships as a college assistant before Chow finally became a head coach. A native Hawaiian, Chow is a natural fit for the Warriors, who have seen declining attendance even though the "retiring" McMackin had led two bowl trips in his four years. Chow's first game will be at the L.A. Coliseum, where he helped Pete Carroll and USC win a pair of national championships.

Houston

Out: Kevin Sumlin | **In:** Tony Levine

If Levine's first season goes anything like his first game, Houston will look savvy for promoting him from assistant head coach to take over when Sumlin left for Texas A&M. The Cougars responded with a 30-14 win over Penn State in the Ticket City Bowl. Now we'll see if Levine, who's been a part of 35 Houston wins in four seasons as an assistant, can win without Case Keenum.

Illinois

Out: Ron Zook | **In:** Tim Beckman

Midway through the 2011 season, Illinois was 6-0 and fireronzook.com was being laughed at. But the original "fireyourcoach website" had the last laugh, as the Illini stumbled through a six-game losing streak and Zook was finally fired. Beckman, meantime, rescued Toledo from the dregs and a point-shaving scandal to go 21-16 in three seasons, with two bowl games. Not the most exciting hire, but the Mid-American Conference to Big Ten highway has been successful for some in the past.

Kansas

Out: Turner Gill | **In:** Charlie Weis

Weis didn't seem to like Kansas very much two years ago when he worked for the Chiefs, but he injected himself into the Jayhawks' search late and came away with the job. He'll try to dig out from a 5-19 mark in Turner Gill's two seasons. Count the people of South Bend skeptical, given Weis' steady decline over a five-year stay at Notre Dame. Gill was hired as head coach at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.

Memphis

Out: Larry Porter | **In:** Justin Fuente

After coaching with Les Miles at Oklahoma State and LSU, Porter got his first head coaching job ... and went 1-11 and 2-10 before the former Memphis Tigers running back was fired after only two years. So, as Porter becomes running backs coach at Arizona State, there's no high bar for Fuente to scale. He served as Texas Christian's co-offensive coordinator last season. He'll have to get busy quickly in order to have Memphis ready for a move to the Big East next year.

New Mexico

Out: Mike Locksley | **In:** Bob Davie

Locksley struggled through off-field controversy in Albuquerque and never built on the promise he showed either as a recruiter and assistant at Illinois, when the Illini made it to the Rose Bowl. He was fired midseason, and the Lobos had a chance to fully assess Davie as a candidate. They hope he is re-energized after a decade away from the sideline (and mostly in the ESPN broadcast booth) since his firing at Notre Dame, where he had two nine-win seasons in five years, including one BCS bowl. Davie, remember, built his reputation with the "Wrecking Crew" defense at Texas A&M in the 1990s.

North Carolina

Out: Butch Davis/Everett Withers
In: Larry Fedora

Davis got the boot just before the 2011 season, leaving the Tar Heels in a bad spot — but not as bad as forfeiting all of their wins from 2008 and 2009, when Davis used ineligible players. Although not directly

CAREER COACHING VICTORIES

For years we tracked the chase between Florida State's Bobby Bowden and Penn State's Joe Paterno to be the winningest coach in major college football. Paterno got there first, beating Ohio State in 2001 to eclipse Bear Bryant's 323 wins.

JoePa just kept on going for another decade, working the sideline (or the press box) two years after Bowden had retired, reaching a record of 409-136-3 when the Nittany Lions beat Illinois on Oct. 29. That would be his last game, fired amid the scandal involving former Penn State assistant Jerry Sandusky. Paterno, 85, died in January after battling lung cancer.

John Gagliardi, still coaching at Division III power St. John's at the age of 85, holds the all-time coaching mark with a record of 484-133-11 in an astounding 63 seasons. As for the FBS level, nobody is within 150 victories of JoePa.

Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer is the new No. 1 with 251 wins. He and Mack Brown are the current standards for longevity and success at the highest level, each having advanced to bowls in 19 of the past 20 seasons.

Brown is under contract through the 2020 season, when he would be pushing 70. Even if he averages 10 wins in the next nine seasons, he'd still be 92 victories behind Paterno.

Here are the winningest coaches in the FBS (not all these victories came at the major college level, but we're counting them all):

NO.	COACH, CURRENT TEAM	YEARS	AGE	W-L-T	PCT.
1.	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech	31	65	251-120-4	67.5
2.	Mack Brown, Texas	28	61	227-113-1	66.7
3.	Chris Ault, Nevada	27	65	226-103-1	68.6
4.	Steve Spurrier, South Carolina	22	67	197-75-2	72.3
5.	Dennis Franchione, Texas State	26	61	193-107-2	64.2
6.	Brian Kelly, Notre Dame	21	50	187-67-2	73.4
7.	Mike Price, UTEP	30	66	174-174-0	50.0
8.	Larry Blakeney, Troy	21	64	164-91-1	64.1
9.	Bill Snyder, Kansas State	20	72	159-83-1	65.8
10.	Gary Pinkel, Missouri	21	60	158-91-3	62.5

**Age at start of the season*

implicated in an NCAA agent and academic scandal, there was too much smoke on his clothes to survive. Withers did a solid job as interim coach (7-6), and has since been hired by Urban Meyer as co-defensive coordinator at Ohio State. Fedora arrives from Southern Mississippi, where he went 34-19 in four years, including 12-2 last season.

Ohio State

Out: Luke Fickell | **In:** Urban Meyer

The worst-kept secret in coaching searches ended with Meyer's departure from the ESPN booth for the only job he said could have lured him back to the sideline. He inherits a 6-7 team and his predecessor. Fickell was retained as defensive coordinator at the same salary he made last year as Jim Tressel's interim successor. Meyer, of course, has a 65-12 record with two national championship rings, but he burned out terribly at Florida and reportedly lost control of his team.

Mississippi

Out: Houston Nutt | **In:** Hugh Freeze

The purveyor of the Wild Hog and the Wild Rebel has given way to Michael Oher's high school coach in "The Blind Side." Nutt's decline at Ole Miss (from successive nine-win seasons to 4-8 and 2-10) was remarkably sudden. In the meantime, Freeze's ascent to the job is just as remarkable. He wowed them in his one year at Arkansas State, where he was the lowest-paid coach in major-college football ($200,000).

Penn State

Out: Joe Paterno | **In:** Bill O'Brien

The issue here is how O'Brien will be able to progress with the smoldering anger surrounding Paterno's dismissal. The hiring of O'Brien seemed to be a purposeful turning to the outside, and was not greeted warmly by Nittany Lion Nation. O'Brien comes from the New England Patriots, where he served as offensive coordinator. For what it's worth, he went to Brown ... which means all the Penn State head coaches since 1966 have gone to Brown.

Pittsburgh

Out: Todd Graham | **In:** Paul Chryst

Chryst, the former Wisconsin offensive coordinator, enters through the revolving door, becoming the fourth Pitt coach inside of 13 months. The Panthers have the introductory press conference down. It's the keeping of the coach that needs to improve. Graham bolted after 11 months, following Mike Haywood (15 days on the job before being fired when he was arrested on domestic violence charges), and Dave Wannstedt (six seasons).

Rutgers

Out: Greg Schiano | **In:** Kyle Flood

It seems like Schiano did this just about as well as you can do it. He helped build Rutgers into a reputable, competitive program, did not jump at the first couple of chances to cash in, but after 11 seasons (including 49-28 with five bowls in the past six years), he is taking his chance in the NFL. Rutgers was reportedly close to hiring FIU coach Mario Cristobal, but by promoting Flood, the offensive line coach for seven years, the Scarlet Knights retained most of their recruiting class in the aftermath of Schiano's January departure for Tampa Bay.

Southern Mississippi

Out: Larry Fedora | **In:** Ellis Johnson

Johnson will be able to preach the "never give up" gospel to his players, since he tried for the Southern Miss job in 2008 when Fedora was hired. Johnson comes from South Carolina, where he was assistant head coach and defensive coordinator. Fedora went 33-19 in four seasons.

Texas A&M

Out: Mike Sherman | **In:** Kevin Sumlin

Sumlin and his high-scoring offense gets the challenge of ushering A&M into the SEC. He went 35-17 in four years at Houston and was a hot property on the coaching circuit last year. Arizona State and Illinois flirted with him, but he returned to College Station, where he had been an assistant under RC Slocum in 2001. Sherman, the former Packers coach who enjoyed just one winning season in his four at A&M, is back in the NFL as Dolphins offensive coordinator.

Toledo

Out: Tim Beckman | **In:** Matt Campbell

The Rockets' flashy offense earned this job for Campbell, their coordinator, even though he is just 32. Beckman wanted to take him along to Illinois, but Toledo hopes Campbell was the big reason it averaged more than 42 points a game last season.

Tulane

Out: Bob Toledo | **In:** Curtis Johnson

This seemed like a head-scratching hire until Bounty Gate blew up with the New Orleans Saints, where Johnson coached wide receivers since 2006. Maybe he knew something. Maybe Tulane knows something. Johnson has been only a receivers coach in a 24-year career. He's never been a coordinator, let alone run the show. But Toledo had tons of experience running offenses and being a head coach ... and that didn't work out so well, either.

UAB

Out: Neil Callaway | **In:** Garrick McGee

McGee, who left his position as offensive coordinator at Arkansas, is tackling his first head-coaching job — and he's looking at a steep climb. The Blazers have gone 26-57 in the past seven seasons, and McGee will have to overcome an apathetic fan base.

UCLA

Out: Rick Neuheisel | **In:** Jim Mora Jr.

Neuheisel was snake-bit at the quarterback position for all four of his seasons, miscalculated in switching to the Pistol offense halfway through, and stumbled to a 21-29 record. Mora knows a little about being snake-bit. He was fired by the Atlanta Falcons after kidding on Seattle radio his dream job was in Seattle at the University of Washington, and that he'd leave "even if we were in a playoff run." Then he joined the Seattle Seahawks staff, spent a year as Mike Holmgren's replacement-in-waiting, but after Holmgren "retired" in 2008, Mora lasted only a year before USC's Pete Carroll came available ... and the Seahawks fired Mora to hire Carroll.

Washington State

Out: Paul Wulff | **In:** Mike Leach

The Palouse is a lot of open country — plenty of space for Leach to swing his sword. If he can approach his 10-year record at Texas Tech (84-43, 10 bowl appearances), Washington State will be delirious. The Cougars showed annual progress, but didn't manage a winning season in four years under Wulff and hasn't been above .500 since 2003.

SNEAK PEEK

The best and most productive players in college aren't always the ones most coveted by the NFL, which is why we always ask our pals from NFLDraftScout.com to give us a long-range pro perspective.

From this distance, it appears that the 2013 NFL Draft could be a good one for pocket passers.

USC's Matt Barkley, who was in the top 10 of this list last year as an underclassman, is No. 1. No surprise. But a pair of SEC quarterbacks — Tennessee's Tyler Bray and Arkansas' Tyler Wilson — are also in the top five.

Befitting its status as the nation's best conference, the SEC has 15 of the top 28 draft-eligible prospects, according to NFLDraftScout.com.

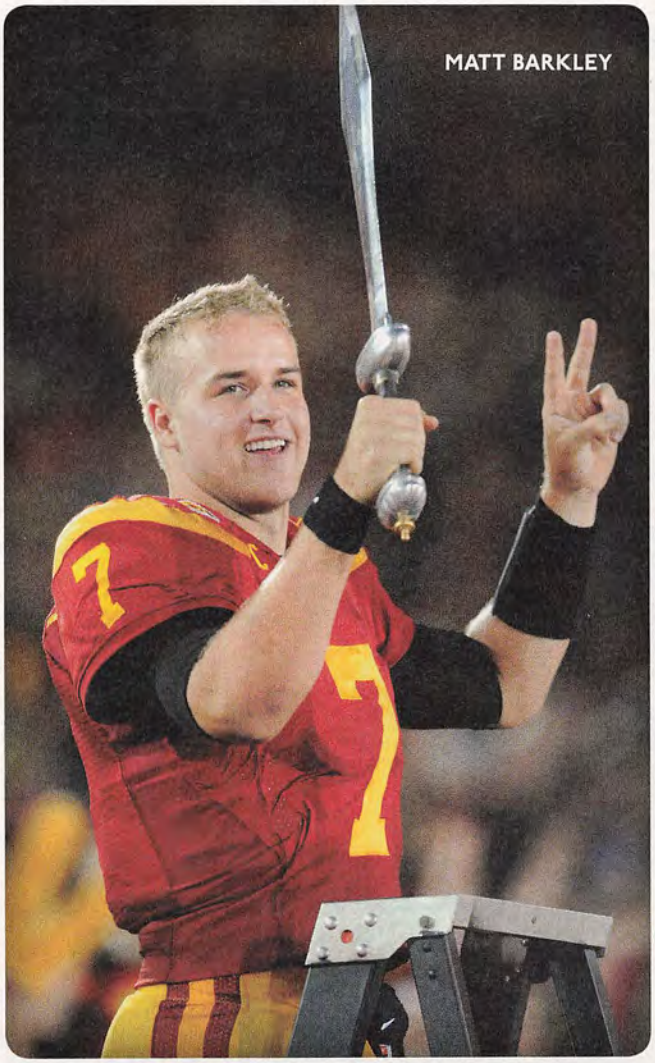
MATT BARKLEY

Photo by Joe Robbins

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	SCHOOL
1.	Matt Barkley	QB	USC
2.	Barkevious Mingo*	DE	LSU
3.	Tyler Bray*	QB	Tennessee
4.	Johnathan Hankins*	DT	Ohio State
5.	Tyler Wilson	QB	Arkansas
6.	Robert Woods*	WR	USC
7.	Marcus Lattimore*	RB	South Carolina
8.	Alex Okafor	DE	Texas
9.	Manti Te'o	LB	Notre Dame
10.	Justin Hunter*	WR	Tennessee
11.	Dominique Easley*	DT	Florida
12.	Bjoern Werner*	DE	Florida State
13.	Jarvis Jones*	OLB	Georgia
14.	Keenan Allen*	WR	California
15.	Corey Lemonier*	DE	Auburn
16.	Tyrann Mathieu*	CB	LSU
17.	Montee Ball	RB	Wisconsin
18.	Brandon Jenkins	DE	Florida State
19.	David Amerson*	CB	NC State
20.	Barrett Jones	OL	Alabama
21.	Kenny Stills*	WR	Oklahoma
22.	Knile Davis	RB	Arkansas
23.	Bennie Logan*	DT	LSU
24.	Johnthan Banks	CB	Mississippi State
25.	Sam Montgomery*	DE	LSU
26.	DeAndre Hopkins*	WR	Clemson
27.	Kevin Reddick	LB	North Carolina
28.	Sean Porter*	LB	Texas A&M
29.	Landry Jones	QB	Oklahoma
30.	William Gholston*	DE	Michigan State
31.	Tyler Eifert*	TE	Notre Dame
32.	Jackson Jeffcoat*	DE	Texas
33.	Chance Warmack*	G	Alabama
34.	John Simon	DL	Ohio State
35.	Kawann Short	DT	Purdue
36.	Joseph Randle*	RB	Oklahoma State
37.	Alex Hurst	OT	LSU
38.	Craig Roh	LB	Michigan
39.	Jonathan Cooper	G	North Carolina
40.	Oday Aboushi	OT	Virginia
41.	Terrance Williams	WR	Baylor
42.	D.J. Fluker*	OT	Alabama
43.	Robert Lester	S	Alabama
44.	Logan Thomas*	QB	Virginia Tech
45.	Tony Jefferson*	S	Oklahoma
46.	Ricky Wagner	OT	Wisconsin
47.	Matt Elam*	S	Florida
48.	Xavier Nixon	OT	Florida
49.	Kwame Geathers*	DT	Georgia
50.	T.J. McDonald	S	USC

*Underclassman

TOP 12 NON-CONFERENCE GAMES

1. MICHIGAN VS. ALABAMA, SEPT. 1 (COWBOYS STADIUM, ARLINGTON, TEXAS)

The up-and-comers from Ann Arbor are looking to climb all the way back against the defending national champs. Can the Wolverines' Denard Robinson be enough of a passing threat? Will the Tide's revamped defensive front roar from the start?

2. NOTRE DAME AT OKLAHOMA, OCT. 27

These college football pillars have met just nine times; just once since 1968. The most recent meeting came in 1999, which was Bob Stoops' first season in Norman. The Irish have had six head coaches since 1999, including George O'Leary, if only for a few minutes.

3. MICHIGAN AT NOTRE DAME, SEPT. 22

This has provided great theater over the years, and last year's was a classic under the lights in the Big House in front of an NCAA-record crowd of 114,804. The Irish, wearing three-leaf clovers on their helmets, scored a TD with 30 seconds left to take the lead, but the Wolverines stunned ND with a long pass and a 16-yard touchdown toss with two seconds left for a 35-31 win.

4. BOISE STATE AT MICHIGAN STATE, AUG. 31

You don't want to mess with the Broncos early, as they have opened the past three seasons by beating Oregon, Virginia Tech and Georgia. All of that, however, was with now-departed quarterback Kellen Moore.

5. FLORIDA AT FLORIDA STATE, NOV. 24

Second-year Gators coach Will Muschamp has to make up ground after losing his debut in the rivalry, 21-7. Florida State has regained the upper hand after losing six in a row, winning the past two meetings and holding Florida to a touchdown each time.

6. SOUTH CAROLINA AT CLEMSON, NOV. 24

The Tigers, especially coach Dabo Swinney, are desperate after losing the past three meetings by a combined 60 points. We're due for a thriller, with a top ACC offense going against a robust SEC defense.

7. NOTRE DAME AT USC, NOV. 24

This is the end of an arduous schedule for the Irish, while the Trojans (presumably runaway champs of the Pac-12 South) will be tuning up for the conference title game and possibly looking for Matt Barkley's Heisman moment. Lane Kiffin and Brian Kelly have split their two meetings.

8. BYU AT UTAH, SEPT. 15

These Holy War rivals went separate ways after the 2010 season — the Utes to the Pac-12 and the Cougars to independence. After extending the heated series for two years, this could be the sad end of the road.

9. AUBURN VS. CLEMSON, SEPT. 1 (ATLANTA)

Clemson hits the field eager to rinse away the taste of the beatdown from West Virginia in the Orange Bowl. Auburn needs to build momentum for the ensuing four-week march that includes games at Mississippi State, vs. LSU and vs. Arkansas.

10. MIAMI VS. NOTRE DAME, OCT. 6 (CHICAGO)

We'd like it better if this was a time-machine game back to the late 1980s, with Lou Holtz and Jimmy Johnson on the sidelines. We'll settle for two programs scratching back for glory at Soldier Field in their first regular-season meeting since '90.

11. WASHINGTON AT LSU, SEPT. 8

Hard to see the Huskies solving LSU's defense, even with quarterback Keith Price, but it's a potentially tricky early test for the Tigers, who open against North Texas.

12. NAVY VS. NOTRE DAME, SEPT. 1 (DUBLIN, IRELAND)

The location is a novelty. The pain Notre Dame feels after losing three of the last five to the Midshipmen is real.

Photo by Rick Osentoski-US PRESSWIRE

MICHIGAN VS. NOTRE DAME

Photo by John David Mercer-US PRESSWIRE

ALABAMA VS. LSU

TOP 12 CONFERENCE GAMES

1. ALABAMA AT LSU, NOV. 3

Will both teams get here undefeated? LSU has previous games at Auburn, Florida and Texas A&M, as well as a home showdown vs. South Carolina. The Tide will have to navigate a neutral-site game vs. Michigan and trips to Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. It could all be a prelude to Game of the Century III.

2. OREGON AT USC, NOV. 3

So, how are you liking Nov. 3 so far? The Trojans shocked the fourth-ranked Ducks last season, ending Oregon's 21-game winning streak in Autzen. Best news: This matchup, flush with playmakers, should be only the first of two, with the rematch coming in the conference title game.

3. MICHIGAN AT OHIO STATE, NOV. 24

This is getting good, again. Michigan is back to being Michigan. Urban is at Ohio State. Denard Robinson. Braxton Miller. The Buckeyes, ineligible for the postseason, can be the ultimate spoiler to "that school up north" as the Wolverines could very well be looking to put a bow on the Legends Division. Michigan, which snapped a seven-game series skid last season, hasn't partied in Columbus since 2000.

4. GEORGIA AT MISSOURI; FLORIDA AT TEXAS A&M, SEPT. 8

The SEC set up its newbies with attractive home games to start the conference season. How accommodating. And then watch the SEC eat its young ... if it can.

5. MICHIGAN STATE AT WISCONSIN, OCT. 27

These teams played two great ones last season, the Spartans winning on a Hail Mary in the regular season and the Badgers one-upping MSU with a come-from-behind 42-39 win in the Big Ten Championship Game. This is the middle of a brutal stretch for Sparty — after a game at Michigan and before a game vs. Nebraska.

6. LSU AT ARKANSAS, NOV. 24

Last day of the regular season. SEC West title at stake?

7. OKLAHOMA VS. TEXAS, OCT. 13 (DALLAS)

A rivalry that stays in the Big 12. Hooray for tradition.

8. OKLAHOMA AT WEST VIRGINIA, NOV. 17

A new non-traditional rivalry that could become one of the best in the Big 12. Hooray for change.

9. GEORGIA AT SOUTH CAROLINA, OCT. 6

The heaviest hitters from the SEC Eastern Division will try to land a few haymakers, while Steve Spurrier fires barbs from outside the ring.

10. ALABAMA AT ARKANSAS, SEPT. 15

After opening against Jacksonville State and Louisiana-Monroe, the Bobby Petrino-less Hogs will see if they still have a chance to be special.

11. MICHIGAN STATE AT MICHIGAN, OCT. 20

Brady Hoke solved Ohio State last season. To be a Legends leader, he has to get his Wolverines to end a four-game skid against State.

12. CLEMSON AT FLORIDA STATE, SEPT. 22

The frontrunner for the ACC Atlantic Division emerges after this game. Mark Stoops' FSU defense is still smarting after giving up 455 yards to the Tigers in a 35-30 loss last season.

SCOPING THE NATION

COMEBACK PLAYERS

Injuries are part of the game, and so is coming back from them. Here is a look at 10 players who missed all, or a significant part, of last season, including some high-profile running backs:

Knile Davis, RB, Arkansas (broken ankle)

He didn't have any contact in the spring but is expected to have the burst and the cuts that led to an All-SEC sophomore season in which he ran for 1,322 yards and 13 touchdowns. Missed all of last season.

Ray Graham, RB, Pittsburgh (knee)

With 939 yards through six games last year, Graham was on pace for a 2,000-yard season. He is hoping to be 100 percent by fall camp for new coach Paul Chryst.

Montel Harris, RB, Boston College (knee)

He's BC's career rushing leader (3,735 yards) and was granted an extra year of eligibility after playing in only two games last year. Sad news, though: His 2012 season was in doubt after re-injuring the knee at the start of spring.

Justin Hunter, WR, Tennessee (knee)

The tall, speedy sophomore has averaged 22.4 yards a catch in a little more than a season. He blew out his knee in the third game last year when he was leading the SEC in receptions.

Marcus Lattimore, RB, South Carolina (knee)

Was still recovering this spring from a torn ACL suffered in October, when he was leading the SEC in rushing. The outlook was positive for the junior, who can't be stopped even by SEC defenses; he has four games of at least 176 yards vs. the SEC.

Brandon Magee, LB, Arizona State (Achilles' tendon)

The former ASU coaching staff was saying last year that Magee was the team's best linebacker (at least the one with his head on the straightest) before the injury in fall camp. Magee, who made 73 tackles as a junior in 2010, should have no trouble replacing the modest production and lack of leadership from departed would-be superstar Vontaze Burfict.

Kenny Tate, LB, Maryland (knee)

The former All-ACC safety moved to linebacker before last season, which seemed like a curious move, but he's staying there as the Terps put in a 3-4 scheme this spring under new coordinator Brian Stewart. If the defense is as aggressive as promised, Tate should be one of the nation's top defensive playmakers.

Jeff Tuel, QB, Washington St. (collar bone)

Tuel, limited to three games last season because of a variety of ailments, was sensational in the spring game. He could face competition when sophomore Connor Halliday returns in the fall from a liver injury, but Tuel is the one most likely to benefit from Mike Leach's offense.

Nathan Williams, DE, Ohio State (knee)

Projected to be the Buckeyes' top defender last season as a senior, he had to shut it down after one game, eventually needing microfracture surgery. He was still healing as he sat out spring drills, but Ohio State is hopeful that Williams (21.5 career tackles for loss) can team with John Simon and others to create a formidable front line in the fall.

Arizona's ACL army

Here's a special, uh, honor for first-year coach Rich Rodriguez and the Wildcats, who have five players coming back from ACL tears. Ouch, make that four, because safety Adam Hall, the team's hardest hitter and a projected leader, is out again after ripping up the same knee in the spring game. Linebacker Jake Fischer looked great in the spring, though, and defensive tackle Willie Mobley and running back Greg Nwoko were also back for spring ball. Jonathan McKnight, the team's best cornerback, was on pace for a fall camp return.

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Sincerely,
Lindy Davis
Publisher

Lindy's SPORTS ANNUALS

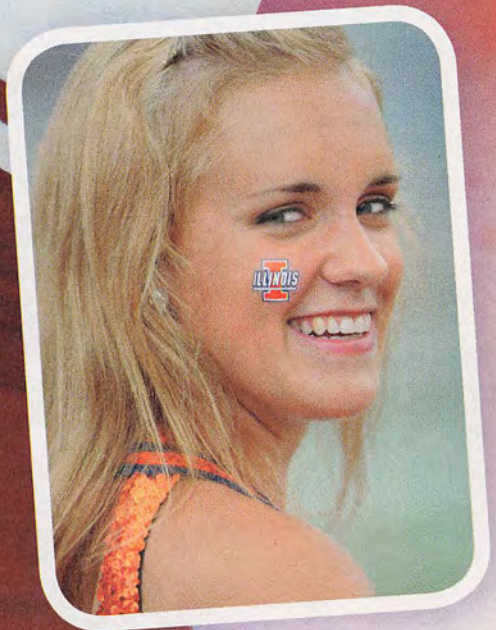
Sidelines 2012

1

1. The Great Outdoors
Sarah, a senior Marketing major from Huntsville, Ala., enjoys anything outdoors … fishing, cooking out, being on the lake, hunting with her dad, and of course, cheering on the sideline at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

2. Clear as a Crystal
Emily is an Elementary Education major from Crystal Lakes, Ill. who dances with the Illinettes Dance Team. Reading and traveling are among her favorites. It's crystal clear why Illini fans are glad she came their way.

2



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3. Here Comes the Sun

Eva is from Louisville, a sophomore Biology major who enjoys playing softball. Pulling hard for the Miami Hurricanes, she's a member of their dance team, the Sunsations … sensational!

4. Home Sweet Home

Sara, a senior Elementary Education major, has been marching with the Auburn band for four years. A native of Auburn, Ala., and a big Tiger fan, when it came time for college, why look anywhere else?

5. The Eagles Have Landed

A first-year college student, Summer landed in Hattiesburg to major in Healthcare Marketing. Her interests are varied — deep sea fishing, mountain bike riding, photography, tennis … and cheering for the Eagles of Southern Miss.

6. Taytum of Tallahassee

A sophomore from Baker County, Fla., Taytum loves cheerleading, boating and skeet shooting. She's an Exercise Science major … appropriate since she gets so much exercise cheering for the Seminoles.

7. Dancing for a Tiger Title

With her LSU team favored for the national title, Ragen can enjoy dancing with the Golden Band from Tigerland even more. She's an Industrial Engineering major from Franklinton, La., and has five younger siblings.

8. All Smiles

Taylor, a sophomore from Cabot, Ark., has a lot to smile about … spending time with family, and cheering for her beloved Razorbacks, who are national title contenders. Her major — Health Sciences (Dental Hygiene), of course.

9. Go West Young Man
Amanda is certainly not a man, but she did go west. A Biology major from Alabama, she passed on her home state schools to be a student in Oxford, Miss., where she is a cheerleader for Ole Miss.

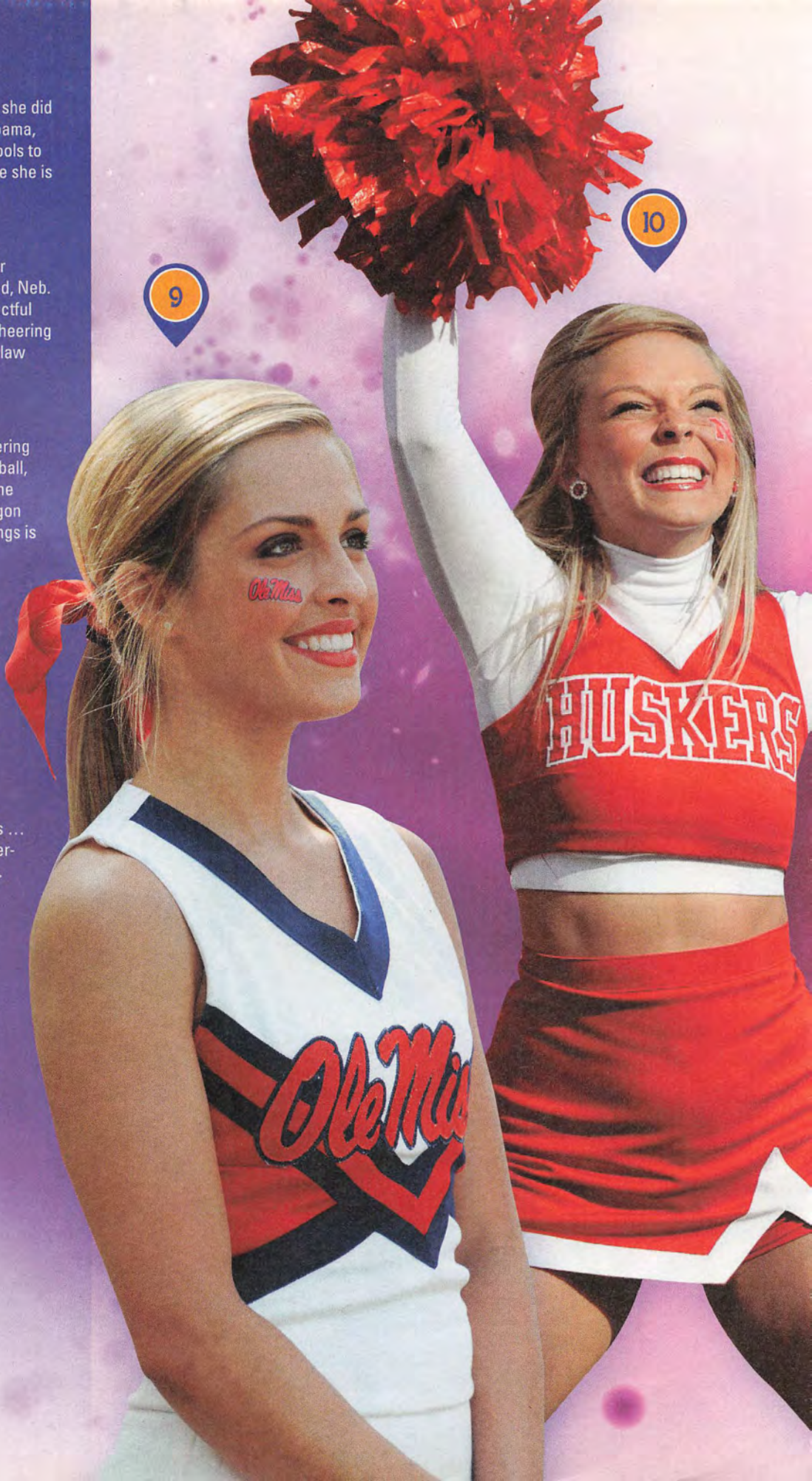
10. Laying Down the Law
The ruling is clear for Kara, a senior Psychology major from Grand Island, Neb. The 'Huskers have the "most respectful and loyal fans in the nation." The cheering squad captain, she plans to attend law school.

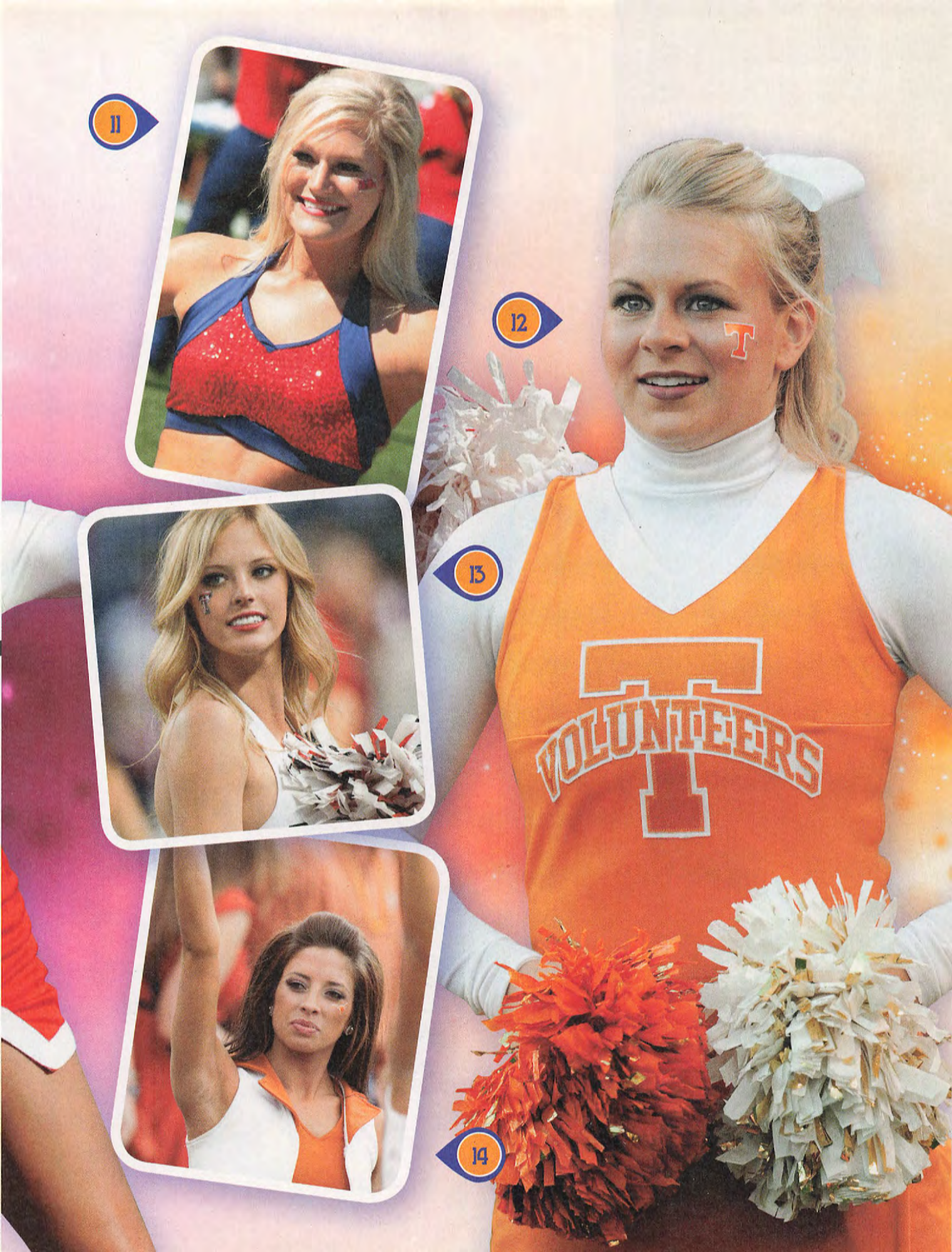
11. Student of the Game
Caroline isn't just a Rebelette, cheering for Ole Miss. She understands football, its plays and its strategy. Too bad the team from Oxford doesn't play Oregon this season. One of her favorite things is duck hunting.

12. Really a Volunteer
Brittany is a junior co-captain of the Tennessee cheering squad, but she also finds time to do much more. She's on the FCA Leadership Team and serves as student member of the UT Athletic Board.

13. You Can 'Bank' On It
No doubt about where Abby stands … it's on the sideline in Lubbock, cheering for her Texas Tech Red Raiders. She'll have a minor in American Sign Language and loves playing with her dog … named "Banks."

14. Serious Business
Even though she's from Red Raider country in Lubbock, Brogan pulls for a different Texas team. She's a senior Business major, cheering for the Longhorns to bounce back this season … and that *is* serious business in Austin.

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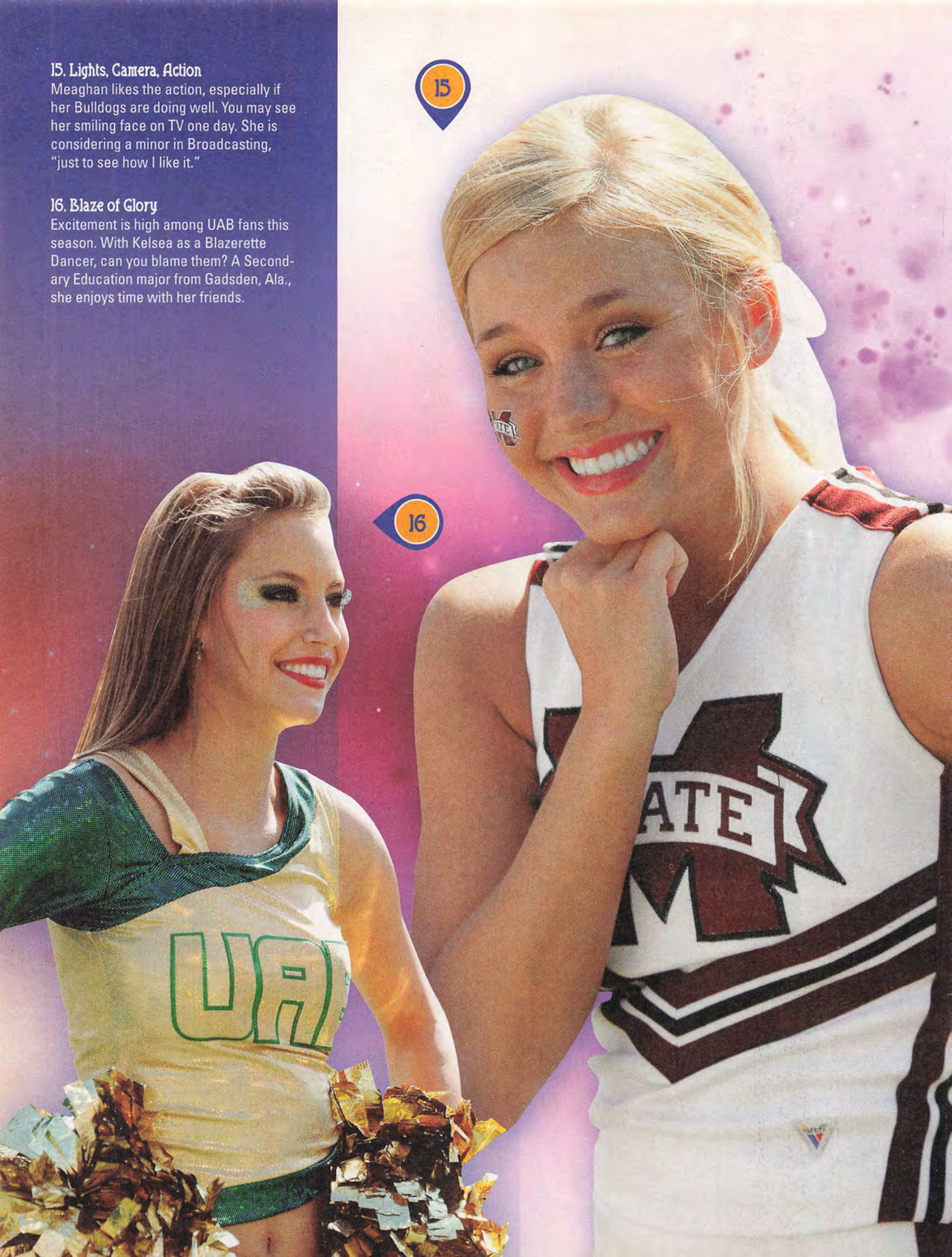
VOLUNTEERS

15. Lights, Camera, Action
Meaghan likes the action, especially if her Bulldogs are doing well. You may see her smiling face on TV one day. She is considering a minor in Broadcasting, "just to see how I like it."

16. Blaze of Glory
Excitement is high among UAB fans this season. With Kelsea as a Blazerette Dancer, can you blame them? A Secondary Education major from Gadsden, Ala., she enjoys time with her friends.



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Wrangler

NATIONAL SCHEDULES

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE

Sept. 1	MIAMI
Sept. 8	MAINE
Sept. 15	at Northwestern
Sept. 29	CLEMSON
Oct. 6	at Army
Oct. 13	at Florida State
Oct. 20	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 27	MARYLAND
Nov. 3	at Wake Forest
Nov. 10	NOTRE DAME
Nov. 17	VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 24	at NC State

CLEMSON

Sept. 1	vs. Auburn (Atlanta, GA)
Sept. 8	BALL STATE
Sept. 15	FURMAN
Sept. 22	at Florida State
Sept. 29	at Boston College
Oct. 6	GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 20	VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 25	at Wake Forest
Nov. 3	at Duke
Nov. 10	MARYLAND
Nov. 17	NC STATE
Nov. 24	SOUTH CAROLINA

DUKE

Sept. 1	FIU
Sept. 8	at Stanford
Sept. 15	N.C. CENTRAL
Sept. 22	MEMPHIS
Sept. 29	at Wake Forest
Oct. 6	VIRGINIA
Oct. 13	at Virginia Tech
Oct. 20	NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 27	at Florida State
Nov. 3	CLEMSON
Nov. 17	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 24	MIAMI

FLORIDA STATE

Sept. 1	MURRAY STATE
Sept. 8	SAVANNAH STATE
Sept. 15	WAKE FOREST
Sept. 22	CLEMSON
Sept. 29	at South Florida
Oct. 6	at NC State
Oct. 13	BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 20	at Miami
Oct. 27	DUKE
Nov. 8	at Virginia Tech
Nov. 17	at Maryland
Nov. 24	FLORIDA

GEORGIA TECH

Sept. 3	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 8	PRESBYTERIAN
Sept. 15	VIRGINIA
Sept. 22	MIAMI
Sept. 29	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 6	at Clemson
Oct. 20	BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 27	BYU
Nov. 3	at Maryland
Nov. 10	at North Carolina
Nov. 17	DUKE
Nov. 24	at Georgia

MARYLAND

Sept. 1	WILLIAM & MARY
Sept. 8	at Temple
Sept. 15	CONNECTICUT
Sept. 22	at West Virginia
Oct. 6	WAKE FOREST
Oct. 13	at Virginia
Oct. 20	NC STATE
Oct. 27	at Boston College
Nov. 3	GEORGIA TECH
Nov. 10	at Clemson
Nov. 17	FLORIDA STATE
Nov. 24	at North Carolina

MIAMI

Sept. 1	at Boston College
Sept. 8	at Kansas State
Sept. 15	BETHUNE-COOKMAN
Sept. 22	at Georgia Tech
Sept. 29	NC STATE
Oct. 6	vs. Notre Dame (Chicago)
Oct. 13	NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 20	FLORIDA STATE
Nov. 1	VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 10	at Virginia
Nov. 17	SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 24	at Duke

NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 1	ELON
Sept. 8	at Wake Forest
Sept. 15	at Louisville
Sept. 22	EAST CAROLINA
Sept. 29	IDAHO
Oct. 6	VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 13	at Miami
Oct. 20	at Duke
Oct. 27	NC STATE
Nov. 10	GEORGIA TECH
Nov. 15	at Virginia
Nov. 24	MARYLAND

NC STATE

Aug. 31	vs. Tennessee (Atlanta)
Sept. 8	at Connecticut
Sept. 15	SOUTH ALABAMA
Sept. 22	THE CITADEL
Sept. 29	at Miami
Oct. 6	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 20	at Maryland
Oct. 27	at North Carolina
Nov. 3	VIRGINIA
Nov. 10	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 17	at Clemson
Nov. 24	BOSTON COLLEGE

VIRGINIA

Sept. 1	RICHMOND
Sept. 8	PENN STATE
Sept. 15	at Georgia Tech
Sept. 22	at TCU
Sept. 29	LOUISIANA TECH
Oct. 6	at Duke
Oct. 13	MARYLAND
Oct. 20	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 3	at NC State
Nov. 10	MIAMI
Nov. 15	NORTH CAROLINA
Nov. 24	at Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH

Sept. 3	GEORGIA TECH
Sept. 8	AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 15	at Pittsburgh
Sept. 22	BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 29	vs. Cincinnati (Landover, MD)
Oct. 6	at North Carolina
Oct. 13	DUKE
Oct. 20	at Clemson
Nov. 1	at Miami
Nov. 8	FLORIDA STATE
Nov. 17	at Boston College
Nov. 24	VIRGINIA

WAKE FOREST

Sept. 1	LIBERTY
Sept. 8	NORTH CAROLINA
Sept. 15	at Florida State
Sept. 22	ARMY
Sept. 29	DUKE
Oct. 6	at Maryland
Oct. 20	at Virginia
Oct. 25	CLEMSON
Nov. 3	BOSTON COLLEGE
Nov. 10	at NC State
Nov. 17	at Notre Dame
Nov. 24	VANDERBILT

BIG EAST

CINCINNATI

Sept. 6	PITTSBURGH
Sept. 15	DELAWARE STATE
Sept. 29	vs. Virginia Tech (Landover, MD)
Oct. 6	MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 13	FORDHAM
Oct. 20	at Toledo
Oct. 26	at Louisville
Nov. 3	SYRACUSE
Nov. 10	at Temple
Nov. 17	RUTGERS
Nov. 23	SOUTH FLORIDA
Dec. 1	at Connecticut

CONNECTICUT

Aug. 30	MASSACHUSETTS
Sept. 8	NC STATE
Sept. 15	at Maryland
Sept. 22	at Western Michigan
Sept. 29	BUFFALO
Oct. 6	at Rutgers
Oct. 13	TEMPLE
Oct. 19	at Syracuse
Nov. 3	at South Florida
Nov. 9	PITTSBURGH
Nov. 24	at Louisville
Dec. 1	CINCINNATI

LOUISVILLE

Sept. 2	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 15	NORTH CAROLINA
Sept. 22	at FIU
Sept. 29	at Southern Miss
Oct. 13	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 20	SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 26	CINCINNATI
Nov. 3	TEMPLE
Nov. 10	at Syracuse
Nov. 24	CONNECTICUT
Nov. 29	at Rutgers

PITTSBURGH

Sept. 1	YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Sept. 6	at Cincinnati
Sept. 15	VIRGINIA TECH
Sept. 22	at Gardner-Webb
Oct. 5	at Syracuse
Oct. 13	LOUISVILLE
Oct. 20	at Buffalo
Oct. 27	TEMPLE
Nov. 3	at Notre Dame
Nov. 9	at Connecticut
Nov. 24	RUTGERS
Dec. 1	at South Florida

RUTGERS

Sept. 1	at Tulane
Sept. 8	HOWARD
Sept. 13	at South Florida
Sept. 22	at Arkansas
Oct. 6	CONNECTICUT
Oct. 13	SYRACUSE
Oct. 20	at Temple
Oct. 27	KENT STATE
Nov. 10	ARMY
Nov. 17	at Cincinnati
Nov. 24	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 29	LOUISVILLE

SYRACUSE

Sept. 1	NORTHWESTERN
Sept. 8	vs. USC (East Rutherford, N.J.)
Sept. 15	STONY BROOK
Sept. 22	at Minnesota
Oct. 5	PITTSBURGH
Oct. 13	at Rutgers
Oct. 19	CONNECTICUT
Oct. 27	at South Florida
Nov. 3	at Cincinnati
Nov. 10	LOUISVILLE
Nov. 17	at Missouri
Nov. 23	at Temple

TEMPLE

Aug. 31	VILLANOVA
Sept. 8	MARYLAND
Sept. 22	at Penn State
Oct. 6	SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 13	at Connecticut
Oct. 20	RUTGERS
Oct. 27	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 3	at Louisville
Nov. 10	CINCINNATI
Nov. 17	at Army
Nov. 23	SYRACUSE

SOUTH FLORIDA

Sept. 1	CHATTANOOGA
Sept. 8	at Nevada
Sept. 13	RUTGERS
Sept. 22	at Ball State
Sept. 29	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 6	at Temple
Oct. 20	at Louisville
Oct. 27	SYRACUSE
Nov. 3	CONNECTICUT
Nov. 17	at Miami
Nov. 23	at Cincinnati
Dec. 1	PITTSBURGH

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS

Sept. 1	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 8	at Arizona State
Sept. 15	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Sept. 22	LOUISIANA TECH
Sept. 29	PENN STATE
Oct. 6	at Wisconsin
Oct. 13	at Michigan
Oct. 27	INDIANA
Nov. 3	at Ohio State
Nov. 10	MINNESOTA
Nov. 17	PURDUE
Nov. 24	at Northwestern

INDIANA

Sept. 1	INDIANA STATE
Sept. 8	vs. Massachusetts (Boston)
Sept. 15	BALL STATE
Sept. 29	at Northwestern
Oct. 6	MICHIGAN STATE
Oct. 13	OHIO STATE
Oct. 20	at Navy
Oct. 27	at Illinois
Nov. 3	IOWA
Nov. 10	WISCONSIN
Nov. 17	at Penn State
Nov. 24	at Purdue

IOWA

Sept. 1	vs. Northern Illinois (Chicago)
Sept. 8	IOWA STATE
Sept. 15	NORTHERN IOWA
Sept. 22	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 29	MINNESOTA
Oct. 13	at Michigan State
Oct. 20	PENN STATE
Oct. 27	at Northwestern
Nov. 3	at Indiana
Nov. 10	PURDUE
Nov. 17	at Michigan
Nov. 23	NEBRASKA

MICHIGAN

Sep. 1	vs. Alabama (Arlington, TX)
Sep. 8	AIR FORCE
Sep. 15	MASSACHUSETTS
Sep. 22	at Notre Dame
Oct. 6	at Purdue
Oct. 13	ILLINOIS
Oct. 20	MICHIGAN STATE
Oct. 27	at Nebraska
Nov. 3	at Minnesota
Nov. 10	NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 17	IOWA
Nov. 24	at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE

Aug. 31	BOISE STATE
Sept. 8	at Central Michigan
Sept. 15	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 22	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 29	OHIO STATE
Oct. 6	at Indiana
Oct. 13	IOWA
Oct. 20	at Michigan
Oct. 27	at Wisconsin
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA
Nov. 17	NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 24	at Minnesota

MINNESOTA

Aug. 30	at UNLV
Sept. 8	NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sept. 15	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 22	SYRACUSE
Sept. 29	at Iowa
Oct. 13	NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 20	at Wisconsin
Oct. 27	PURDUE
Nov. 3	MICHIGAN
Nov. 10	at Illinois
Nov. 17	at Nebraska
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN STATE

NEBRASKA

Sept. 1	SOUTHERN MISS
Sept. 8	at UCLA
Sept. 15	ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 22	IDAHO STATE
Sept. 29	WISCONSIN
Oct 6	at Ohio State
Oct 20	at Northwestern
Oct 27	MICHIGAN
Nov 3	at Michigan State
Nov 10	PENN STATE
Nov 17	MINNESOTA
Nov 23	at Iowa

NORTHWESTERN

Sept. 1	at Syracuse
Sept. 8	VANDERBILT
Sept. 15	BOSTON COLLEGE
Sept. 22	SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 29	INDIANA
Oct. 6	at Penn State
Oct. 13	at Minnesota
Oct. 20	NEBRASKA
Oct. 27	IOWA
Nov. 10	at Michigan
Nov. 17	at Michigan State
Nov. 24	ILLINOIS

OHIO STATE

Sept. 1	MIAMI (OH)
Sept. 8	UCF
Sept. 15	CALIFORNIA
Sept. 22	UAB
Sept. 29	at Michigan State
Oct 6	NEBRASKA
Oct 13	at Indiana
Oct 20	PURDUE
Oct 27	at Penn State
Nov 3	ILLINOIS
Nov 17	at Wisconsin
Nov 24	MICHIGAN

PENN STATE

Sept. 1	OHIO
Sept. 8	at Virginia
Sept. 15	NAVY
Sept. 22	TEMPLE
Sept. 29	at Illinois
Oct. 6	NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 20	at Iowa
Oct. 27	OHIO STATE
Nov. 3	at Purdue
Nov. 10	at Nebraska
Nov. 17	INDIANA
Nov. 24	WISCONSIN

PURDUE

Sept. 1	EASTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	at Notre Dame
Sept. 15	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 29	MARSHALL
Oct. 6	MICHIGAN
Oct. 13	WISCONSIN
Oct. 20	at Ohio State
Oct. 27	at Minnesota
Nov. 3	PENN STATE
Nov. 10	at Iowa
Nov. 17	at Illinois
Nov. 24	INDIANA

WISCONSIN

Sept. 1	NORTHERN IOWA
Sept. 8	at Oregon State
Sept. 15	UTAH STATE
Sept. 22	UTEP
Sept. 29	at Nebraska
Oct. 6	ILLINOIS
Oct. 13	at Purdue
Oct. 20	MINNESOTA
Oct. 27	MICHIGAN STATE
Nov. 10	at Indiana
Nov. 17	OHIO STATE
Nov. 24	at Penn State

BIG 12

BAYLOR

Sept. 1	SMU
Sept. 15	SAM HOUSTON STATE
Sept. 22	at ULM
Sept. 29	at West Virginia
Oct. 13	TCU
Oct. 20	at Texas
Oct. 27	at Iowa State
Nov. 3	KANSAS
Nov. 10	at Oklahoma
Nov. 17	KANSAS STATE
Nov. 24	vs. Texas Tech (Arlington, TX)
Dec. 1	OKLAHOMA STATE

IOWA STATE

Sept. 1	TULSA
Sept. 8	at Iowa
Sept. 15	WESTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 29	TEXAS TECH
Oct 6	at TCU
Oct 13	KANSAS STATE
Oct 20	at Oklahoma State
Oct 27	BAYLOR
Nov 3	OKLAHOMA
Nov 10	at Texas
Nov 17	at Kansas
Nov 24	WEST VIRGINIA

KANSAS

Sept. 1	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Sept. 8	RICE
Sept. 15	TCU
Sept. 22	at Northern Illinois
Oct. 6	at Kansas State
Oct. 13	OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 20	at Oklahoma
Oct. 27	TEXAS
Nov. 3	at Baylor
Nov. 10	at Texas Tech
Nov. 17	IOWA STATE
Dec. 1	at West Virginia

KANSAS STATE

Sept. 1	MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 8	MIAMI
Sept. 15	NORTH TEXAS
Sept. 22	at Oklahoma
Oct. 6	KANSAS
Oct. 13	at Iowa State
Oct. 20	at West Virginia
Oct. 27	TEXAS TECH
Nov. 3	OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 10	at TCU
Nov. 17	at Baylor
Dec. 1	TEXAS

OKLAHOMA

Sept. 1	at UTEP
Sept. 8	FLORIDA A&M
Sept. 22	KANSAS STATE
Oct. 6	at Texas Tech
Oct. 13	vs. Texas (Dallas)
Oct. 20	KANSAS
Oct. 27	NOTRE DAME
Nov. 3	at Iowa State
Nov. 10	BAYLOR
Nov. 17	at West Virginia
Nov. 24	OKLAHOMA STATE
Dec. 1	at TCU

OKLAHOMA STATE

Sept. 1	SAVANNAH STATE
Sept. 8	at Arizona
Sept. 15	LOUISIANA
Sept. 29	TEXAS
Oct. 13	at Kansas
Oct. 20	IOWA STATE
Oct. 27	TCU
Nov. 3	at Kansas State
Nov. 10	WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 17	TEXAS TECH
Nov. 24	at Oklahoma
Dec. 1	at Baylor

TCU

Sept. 8	GRAMBLING STATE
Sept. 15	at Kansas
Sept. 22	VIRGINIA
Sept. 29	at SMU
Oct. 6	IOWA STATE
Oct. 13	at Baylor
Oct. 20	TEXAS TECH
Oct. 27	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 3	at West Virginia
Nov. 10	KANSAS STATE
Nov. 24	at Texas
Dec. 1	OKLAHOMA

TEXAS

Sept. 1	WYOMING
Sept. 8	NEW MEXICO
Sept. 15	at Ole Miss
Sept. 29	at Oklahoma State
Oct. 6	WEST VIRGINIA
Oct. 13	vs. Oklahoma (Dallas)
Oct. 20	BAYLOR
Oct. 27	at Kansas
Nov. 3	at Texas Tech
Nov. 10	IOWA STATE
Nov. 24	TCU
Dec. 1	at Kansas State

Wrangler

NATIONAL SCHEDULES

TEXAS TECH

Sept. 1	NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 8	at Texas State
Sept. 15	NEW MEXICO
Sept. 29	at Iowa State
Oct. 6	OKLAHOMA
Oct. 13	WEST VIRGINIA
Oct. 20	at TCU
Oct. 27	at Kansas State
Nov. 3	TEXAS
Nov. 10	KANSAS
Nov. 17	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 24	vs. Baylor (Arlington, TX)

WEST VIRGINIA

Sept. 1	MARSHALL
Sept. 15	James Madison
Sept. 22	MARYLAND
Sept. 29	BAYLOR
Oct. 6	at Texas
Oct. 13	at Texas Tech
Oct. 20	KANSAS STATE
Nov. 3	TCU
Nov. 10	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 17	OKLAHOMA
Nov. 24	at Iowa State
Dec. 1	KANSAS

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA

Sept. 1	APPALACHIAN STATE
Sept. 8	at South Carolina
Sept. 15	at Southern Miss
Sept. 22	at North Carolina
Sept. 29	UTEP
Oct. 6	at UCF
Oct. 13	MEMPHIS
Oct. 20	at UAB
Oct. 27	NAVY
Nov. 3	HOUSTON
Nov. 17	at Tulane
Nov. 24	MARSHALL

HOUSTON

Sept. 1	TEXAS STATE
Sept. 8	LOUISIANA TECH
Sept. 15	at UCLA
Sept. 29	vs. Rice (Reliant Stadium)
Oct. 6	NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 13	UAB
Oct. 20	at SMU
Oct. 27	UTEP
Nov. 3	at East Carolina
Nov. 10	TULSA
Nov. 17	at Marshall
Nov. 24	TULANE

MARSHALL

Sept. 1	at West Virginia
Sept. 8	WESTERN CAROLINA
Sept. 15	OHIO
Sept. 22	at Rice
Sept. 29	at Purdue
Oct. 6	TULSA
Oct. 20	at Southern Miss
Oct. 27	UCF
Nov. 3	MEMPHIS
Nov. 10	at UAB
Nov. 17	HOUSTON
Nov. 24	at East Carolina

MEMPHIS

Sept. 1	TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Sept. 8	at Arkansas State
Sept. 15	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Sept. 22	at Duke
Oct. 6	RICE
Oct. 13	at East Carolina
Oct. 20	UCF
Oct. 27	at SMU
Nov. 3	at Marshall
Nov. 10	TULANE
Nov. 17	at UAB
Nov. 24	SOUTHERN MISS

RICE

Sept. 1	UCLA
Sept. 8	at Kansas
Sept. 15	at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 22	MARSHALL
Sept. 29	vs. Houston (Reliant Stadium)
Oct. 6	at Memphis
Oct. 13	UTSA
Oct. 20	at Tulsa
Oct. 27	SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 3	at Tulane
Nov. 17	SMU
Nov. 24	at UTEP

SMU

Sept. 1	at Baylor
Sept. 8	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Sept. 15	TEXAS A&M
Sept. 29	TCU
Oct. 6	at UTEP
Oct. 13	at Tulane
Oct. 20	HOUSTON
Oct. 27	MEMPHIS
Nov. 3	at UCF
Nov. 10	SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 17	at Rice
Nov. 24	TULSA

SOUTHERN MISS

Sept. 1	at Nebraska
Sept. 15	EAST CAROLINA
Sept. 22	at Western Kentucky
Sept. 29	LOUISVILLE
Oct. 6	BOISE STATE
Oct. 13	at UCF
Oct. 20	MARSHALL
Oct. 27	at Rice
Nov. 3	UAB
Nov. 10	at SMU
Nov. 17	UTEP
Nov. 24	at Memphis

TULANE

Sept. 1	RUTGERS
Sept. 8	at Tulsa
Sept. 22	OLE MISS
Sept. 29	ULM
Oct. 6	at Louisiana
Oct. 13	SMU
Oct. 20	at UTEP
Oct. 27	UAB
Nov. 3	RICE
Nov. 10	at Memphis
Nov. 17	EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 24	at Houston

TULSA

Sept. 1	at Iowa State
Sept. 8	TULANE
Sept. 15	NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 22	FRESNO STATE
Sept. 29	at UAB
Oct. 6	at Marshall
Oct. 13	UTEP
Oct. 20	RICE
Nov. 3	at Arkansas
Nov. 10	at Houston
Nov. 17	UCF
Nov. 24	at SMU

UAB

Sept. 1	TROY
Sept. 15	at South Carolina
Sept. 22	at Ohio State
Sept. 29	TULSA
Oct. 6	S.E. LOUISIANA
Oct. 13	at Houston
Oct. 20	EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 27	at Tulane
Nov. 3	at Southern Miss
Nov. 10	MARSHALL
Nov. 17	MEMPHIS
Nov. 24	at UCF

UCF

Aug. 30	at Akron
Sept. 8	at Ohio State
Sept. 15	FIU
Sept. 29	MISSOURI
Oct. 6	EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 13	SOUTHERN MISS
Oct. 20	at Memphis
Oct. 27	at Marshall
Nov. 3	SMU
Nov. 10	at UTEP
Nov. 17	at Tulsa
Nov. 24	UAB

UTEP

Sept. 1	OKLAHOMA
Sept. 8	at Ole Miss
Sept. 15	NEW MEXICO STATE
Sept. 22	at Wisconsin
Sept. 29	at East Carolina
Oct. 6	SMU
Oct. 13	at Tulsa
Oct. 20	TULANE
Oct. 27	at Houston
Nov. 10	UCF
Nov. 17	at Southern Miss
Nov. 24	RICE

I-A INDEPENDENTS

ARMY

Sept. 8	at San Diego State
Sept. 15	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 22	at Wake Forest
Sept. 29	STONY BROOK
Oct. 6	BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 13	KENT STATE
Oct. 20	at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 27	BALL STATE
Nov. 3	AIR FORCE
Nov. 10	at Rutgers
Nov. 17	TEMPLE
Dec. 8	vs. Navy (Philadelphia, PA)

BYU

Sept. 1	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 8	WEBER STATE
Sept. 15	at Utah
Sept. 22	at Boise State
Sept. 29	HAWAII
Oct. 5	UTAH STATE
Oct. 13	OREGON STATE
Oct. 20	at Notre Dame
Oct. 27	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 10	IDAHO
Nov. 17	at San Jose State
Nov. 24	at New Mexico State

NAVY

Sept. 1	vs. Notre Dame (Dublin, Ireland)
Sept. 15	at Penn State
Sept. 22	VMI
Sept. 29	SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 6	at Air Force
Oct. 13	at Central Michigan
Oct. 20	INDIANA
Oct. 27	at East Carolina
Nov. 3	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 10	at Troy
Nov. 17	TEXAS STATE
Dec. 8	vs. Army (Philadelphia, PA)

NOTRE DAME

Sept. 1	vs. Navy (Dublin, Ireland)
Sept. 8	PURDUE
Sept. 15	at Michigan State
Sept. 22	MICHIGAN
Oct. 6	vs. Miami (Chicago)
Oct. 13	STANFORD
Oct. 20	BYU
Oct. 27	at Oklahoma
Nov. 3	PITTSBURGH
Nov. 10	at Boston College
Nov. 17	WAKE FOREST
Nov. 24	at USC

MAC

AKRON

Aug. 30	UCF
Sept. 8	at FIU
Sept. 15	MORGAN STATE
Sept. 22	at Tennessee
Sept. 29	MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 6	BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 13	at Ohio
Oct. 20	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 27	at Central Michigan
Nov. 3	at Kent State
Nov. 10	MASSACHUSETTS
Nov. 20	at Toledo

BALL STATE

Aug. 30	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 8	at Clemson
Sept. 15	at Indiana
Sept. 22	SOUTH FLORIDA
Sept. 29	at Kent State
Oct. 6	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 13	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 20	at Central Michigan
Oct. 27	at Army
Nov. 6	at Toledo
Nov. 14	OHIO
Nov. 23	at Miami (OH)

BOWLING GREEN

Sept. 1	at Florida
Sept. 8	IDAHO
Sept. 15	at Toledo
Sept. 22	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 29	RHODE ISLAND
Oct. 6	at Akron
Oct. 13	MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 20	at Massachusetts
Oct. 27	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 7	at Ohio
Nov. 17	KENT STATE
Nov. 23	vs. Buffalo (Columbus, OH)

BUFFALO

Sept. 1	at Georgia
Sept. 8	MORGAN STATE
Sept. 19/20	KENT STATE
Sept. 29	at Connecticut
Oct. 6	at Ohio
Oct. 13	at Northern Illinois
Oct. 20	PITTSBURGH
Oct. 27	TOLEDO
Nov. 3	MIAMI (OH)
Nov. 10	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 17	at Massachusetts
Nov. 23	vs. Bowling Green (Columbus, OH)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Aug. 30	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 8	MICHIGAN STATE
Sept. 22	at Iowa
Sept. 29	at Northern Illinois
Oct. 6	at Toledo
Oct. 13	NAVY
Oct. 20	BALL STATE
Oct. 27	AKRON
Nov. 3	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 10	at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 17	MIAMI (OH)
Nov. 23	at Massachusetts

EASTERN MICHIGAN

Aug. 30	at Ball State
Sept. 8	ILLINOIS STATE
Sept. 15	at Purdue
Sept. 22	at Michigan State
Oct. 6	KENT STATE
Oct. 13	TOLEDO
Oct. 20	ARMY
Oct. 27	at Bowling Green
Nov. 1	at Ohio
Nov. 10	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Nov. 17	at Western Michigan
Nov. 23	NORTHERN ILLINOIS

KENT STATE

Aug. 30	Towson
Sept. 8	at Kentucky
Sept. 19/20	at Buffalo
Sept. 29	BALL STATE
Oct. 6	at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 13	at Army
Oct. 20	WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 27	at Rutgers
Nov. 3	AKRON
Nov. 10	at Miami (OH)
Nov. 17	at Bowling Green
Nov. 23	OHIO

MASSACHUSETTS

Aug. 30	at Connecticut
Sept. 8	vs. Indiana (Boston)
Sept. 15	at Michigan
Sept. 22	at Miami (OH)
Sept. 29	OHIO
Oct. 6	at Western Michigan
Oct. 20	BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 27	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 3	at Northern Illinois
Nov. 10	at Akron
Nov. 17	BUFFALO
Nov. 23	CENTRAL MICHIGAN

MIAMI (OH)

Sept. 1	at Ohio State
Sept. 8	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 15	at Boise State
Sept. 22	MASSACHUSETTS
Sept. 29	at Akron
Oct. 6	at Cincinnati
Oct. 13	at Bowling Green
Oct. 27	OHIO
Nov. 3	at Buffalo
Nov. 10	KENT STATE
Nov. 17	at Central Michigan
Nov. 23	BALL STATE

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 1	vs. Iowa (Chicago)
Sept. 8	TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Sept. 15	at Army
Sept. 22	KANSAS
Sept. 29	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 6	at Ball State
Oct. 13	BUFFALO
Oct. 20	at Akron
Oct. 27	at Western Michigan
Nov. 3	MASSACHUSETTS
Nov. 14	TOLEDO
Nov. 23	at Eastern Michigan

OHIO

Sept. 1	at Penn State
Sept. 8	NEW MEXICO STATE
Sept. 15	at Marshall
Sept. 22	NORFOLK STATE
Sept. 29	at Massachusetts
Oct. 6	BUFFALO
Oct. 13	AKRON
Oct. 27	at Miami (OH)
Nov. 1	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 7	BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 14	at Ball State
Nov. 23	at Kent State

TOLEDO

Sept. 1	at Arizona
Sept. 8	at Wyoming
Sept. 15	BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 22	COASTAL CAROLINA
Sept. 29	at Western Michigan
Oct. 6	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 13	at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 20	CINCINNATI
Oct. 27	at Buffalo
Nov. 6	BALL STATE
Nov. 14	at Northern Illinois
Nov. 20	AKRON

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 1	at Illinois
Sept. 8	EASTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 15	at Minnesota
Sept. 22	CONNECTICUT
Sept. 29	TOLEDO
Oct. 6	MASSACHUSETTS
Oct. 13	at Ball State
Oct. 20	at Kent State
Oct. 27	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 3	at Central Michigan
Nov. 10	at Buffalo
Nov. 17	EASTERN MICHIGAN

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE

Sept. 1	IDAHO STATE
Sept. 8	at Michigan
Sept. 22	at UNLV
Sept. 29	COLORADO STATE
Oct. 6	NAVY
Oct. 13	at Wyoming
Oct. 20	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 27	NEVADA
Nov. 3	at Army
Nov. 10	at San Diego State
Nov. 17	HAWAII
Nov. 24	at Fresno State

BOISE STATE

Aug. 31	at Michigan State
Sept. 15	MIAMI (OH)
Sept. 22	BYU
Sept. 29	at New Mexico
Oct. 6	at Southern Miss
Oct. 13	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 20	UNLV
Oct. 27	at Wyoming
Nov. 3	SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 10	at Hawaii
Nov. 17	COLORADO STATE
Nov. 24	at Nevada

COLORADO STATE

Sept. 2	vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 8	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Sept. 15	at San Jose State
Sept. 22	UTAH STATE
Sept. 29	at Air Force
Oct. 6	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 13	at San Diego State
Oct. 27	HAWAII
Nov. 3	at Wyoming
Nov. 10	UNLV
Nov. 17	at Boise State
Nov. 24	NEW MEXICO

FRESNO STATE

Sept. 1	WEBER STATE
Sept. 8	at Oregon
Sept. 15	COLORADO
Sept. 22	at Tulsa
Sept. 29	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 6	at Colorado State
Oct. 13	at Boise State
Oct. 20	WYOMING
Oct. 27	at New Mexico
Nov. 3	HAWAII
Nov. 10	at Nevada
Nov. 24	AIR FORCE

HAWAII

Sept. 1	at USC
Sept. 15	LAMAR
Sept. 22	NEVADA
Sept. 29	at BYU
Oct. 6	at San Diego State
Oct. 13	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 27	at Colorado State
Nov. 3	at Fresno State
Nov. 10	BOISE STATE
Nov. 17	at Air Force
Nov. 24	UNLV
Dec. 1	SOUTH ALABAMA

NEVADA

Sept. 1	at California
Sept. 8	SOUTH FLORIDA
Sept. 15	NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 22	at Hawaii
Sept. 29	at Texas State
Oct. 6	WYOMING
Oct. 13	at UNLV
Oct. 20	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 27	at Air Force
Nov. 10	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 17	at New Mexico
Nov. 24	BOISE STATE

NEW MEXICO

Sept. 1	SOUTHERN
Sept. 8	at Texas
Sept. 15	at Texas Tech
Sept. 22	at New Mexico State
Sept. 29	BOISE STATE
Oct. 6	TEXAS STATE
Oct. 13	at Hawaii
Oct. 20	at Air Force
Oct. 27	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 3	at UNLV
Nov. 10	WYOMING
Nov. 17	NEVADA
Nov. 24	at Colorado State

SAN DIEGO STATE

Sept. 1	at Washington
Sept. 8	ARMY
Sept. 15	NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 22	SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 29	at Fresno State
Oct. 6	HAWAII
Oct. 13	COLORADO STATE
Oct. 20	at Nevada
Oct. 27	UNLV
Nov. 3	at Boise State
Nov. 10	AIR FORCE
Nov. 24	at Wyoming

UNLV

Aug. 30	MINNESOTA
Sept. 8	NORTHERN ARIZONA
Sept. 15	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 22	AIR FORCE
Sept. 29	at Utah State
Oct. 6	at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 13	NEVADA
Oct. 20	at Boise State
Oct. 27	at San Diego State
Nov. 3	NEW MEXICO
Nov. 10	at Colorado State
Nov. 17	WYOMING
Nov. 24	at Hawaii

WYOMING

Sept. 1	at Texas
Sept. 8	TOLEDO
Sept. 15	CAL POLY
Sept. 22	at Idaho
Oct. 6	at Nevada
Oct. 13	AIR FORCE
Oct. 20	at Fresno State
Oct. 27	BOISE STATE
Nov. 3	COLORADO STATE
Nov. 10	at New Mexico
Nov. 17	at UNLV
Nov. 24	SAN DIEGO STATE

Wrangler

NATIONAL SCHEDULES

PAC-12

ARIZONA

Sept. 1 TOLEDO
Sept. 8 OKLAHOMA STATE
Sept. 15 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Sept. 22 at Oregon
Sept. 29 OREGON STATE
Oct. 6 at Stanford
Oct. 20 WASHINGTON
Oct. 27 USC
Nov. 3 at UCLA
Nov. 10 COLORADO
Nov. 17 at Utah
Nov. 23 ARIZONA STATE

ARIZONA STATE

Sept. 1 NORTHERN ARIZONA
Sept. 8 ILLINOIS
Sept. 15 at Missouri
Sept. 22 UTAH
Sept. 29 at California
Oct. 11 at Colorado
Oct. 18 OREGON
Oct. 27 UCLA
Nov. 3 at Oregon State
Nov. 10 at USC
Nov. 17 WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 23 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA

Sept. 1 NEVADA
Sept. 8 SOUTHERN UTAH
Sept. 15 at Ohio State
Sept. 22 at USC
Sept. 29 ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 6 UCLA
Oct. 13 at Washington State
Oct. 20 STANFORD
Oct. 27 at Utah
Nov. 2 WASHINGTON
Nov. 10 OREGON
Nov. 17 at Oregon State

COLORADO

Sept. 2 vs. Colorado State (Denver)
Sept. 8 SACRAMENTO STATE
Sept. 15 at Fresno State
Sept. 22 at Washington State
Sept. 29 UCLA
Oct 11 ARIZONA STATE
Oct 20 at USC
Oct 27 at Oregon
Nov 3 STANFORD
Nov 10 at Arizona
Nov 17 WASHINGTON
Nov 23 UTAH

OREGON

Sept. 1 ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 8 FRESNO STATE
Sept. 15 TENNESSEE TECH
Sept. 22 ARIZONA
Sept. 29 vs. Washington St. (Seattle)
Oct 6 WASHINGTON
Oct 18 at Arizona State
Oct 27 COLORADO
Nov 3 at USC
Nov 10 at California
Nov 17 STANFORD
Nov 24 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE

Sept. 1 NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 8 WISCONSIN
Sept. 22 at UCLA
Sept. 29 at Arizona
Oct. 6 WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 13 at BYU
Oct. 20 UTAH
Oct. 27 at Washington
Nov. 3 ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 10 at Stanford
Nov. 17 CALIFORNIA
Nov. 24 OREGON

STANFORD

Sept. 1 SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 8 DUKE
Sept. 15 USC
Sept. 27 at Washington
Oct. 6 ARIZONA
Oct. 13 at Notre Dame
Oct. 20 at California
Oct. 27 WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 3 at Colorado
Nov. 10 OREGON STATE
Nov. 17 at Oregon
Nov. 24 at UCLA

UCLA

Sept. 1 at Rice
Sept. 8 NEBRASKA
Sept. 15 HOUSTON
Sept. 22 OREGON STATE
Sept. 29 at Colorado
Oct. 6 at California
Oct. 13 UTAH
Oct. 27 at Arizona State
Nov. 3 ARIZONA
Nov. 10 at Washington State
Nov. 17 USC
Nov. 24 STANFORD

USC

Sept. 1 HAWAII
Sept. 8 vs. Syracuse (East Rutherford, N.J.)
Sept. 15 at Stanford
Sept. 22 CALIFORNIA
Oct. 4 at Utah
Oct. 13 at Washington
Oct. 20 COLORADO
Oct. 27 at Arizona
Nov. 3 OREGON
Nov. 10 ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 17 at UCLA
Nov. 24 NOTRE DAME

UTAH

Aug. 30 NORTHERN COLORADO
Sept. 7 at Utah State
Sept. 15 BYU
Sept. 22 at Arizona State
Oct. 4 USC
Oct. 13 at UCLA
Oct. 20 at Oregon State
Oct. 27 CALIFORNIA
Nov. 3 WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 10 at Washington
Nov. 17 ARIZONA
Nov. 23 at Colorado

WASHINGTON

Sept. 1 SAN DIEGO STATE
Sept. 8 at LSU
Sept. 15 PORTLAND STATE
Sept. 27 STANFORD
Oct. 6 at Oregon
Oct. 13 USC
Oct. 20 at Arizona
Oct. 27 OREGON STATE
Nov. 2 at California
Nov. 10 UTAH
Nov. 17 at Colorado
Nov. 23 at Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE

Sept. 1 at BYU
Sept. 8 EASTERN WASHINGTON
Sept. 15 at UNLV
Sept. 22 COLORADO
Sept. 29 vs. Oregon (Seattle)
Oct. 6 at Oregon State
Oct. 13 CALIFORNIA
Oct. 27 at Stanford
Nov. 3 at Utah
Nov. 10 UCLA
Nov. 17 at Arizona State
Nov. 23 WASHINGTON

SEC

ALABAMA

Sept. 1 vs. Michigan (Arlington, TX)
Sept. 8 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 15 at Arkansas
Sept. 22 FAU
Sept. 29 OLE MISS
Oct. 13 at Missouri
Oct. 20 at Tennessee
Oct. 27 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 3 at LSU
Nov. 10 TEXAS A&M
Nov. 17 WESTERN CAROLINA
Nov. 24 AUBURN

ARKANSAS

Sept. 1 JACKSONVILLE STATE
Sept. 8 ULM
Sept. 15 ALABAMA
Sept. 22 RUTGERS
Sept. 29 at Texas A&M
Oct. 6 at Auburn
Oct. 13 KENTUCKY
Oct. 27 OLE MISS
Nov. 3 TULSA
Nov. 10 at South Carolina
Nov. 17 at Mississippi State
Nov. 24 LSU

AUBURN

Sept. 1 vs. Clemson (Atlanta, GA)
Sept. 8 at Mississippi State
Sept. 15 ULM
Sept. 22 LSU
Oct. 6 ARKANSAS
Oct. 13 at Ole Miss
Oct. 20 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 27 TEXAS A&M
Nov. 3 NEW MEXICO STATE
Nov. 10 GEORGIA
Nov. 17 ALABAMA A&M
Nov. 24 at Alabama

FLORIDA

Sept. 1 BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 8 at Texas A&M
Sept. 15 at Tennessee
Sept. 22 KENTUCKY
Oct. 6 LSU
Oct. 13 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 20 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 27 vs.Georgia (Jacksonville)
Nov. 3 MISSOURI
Nov. 10 LOUISIANA
Nov. 17 JACKSONVILLE STATE
Nov. 24 at Florida State

GEORGIA

Sept. 1 BUFFALO
Sept. 8 at Missouri
Sept. 15 FAU
Sept. 22 VANDERBILT
Sept. 29 TENNESSEE
Oct. 6 at South Carolina
Oct. 20 at Kentucky
Oct. 27 vs. Florida (Jacksonville)
Nov. 3 OLE MISS
Nov. 10 at Auburn
Nov. 17 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Nov. 24 GEORGIA TECH

KENTUCKY

Sept. 2 at Louisville
Sept. 8 KENT STATE
Sept. 15 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 22 at Florida
Sept. 29 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 6 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Oct. 13 at Arkansas
Oct. 20 GEORGIA
Oct. 27 at Missouri
Nov. 3 VANDERBILT
Nov. 17 SAMFORD
Nov. 24 at Tennessee

LSU

Sept. 1 NORTH TEXAS
Sept. 8 WASHINGTON
Sept. 15 IDAHO
Sept. 22 at Auburn
Sept. 29 TOWSON
Oct. 6 at Florida
Oct. 13 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 20 at Texas A&M
Nov. 3 ALABAMA
Nov. 10 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 17 OLE MISS
Nov. 24 at Arkansas

OLE MISS

Sept. 1 CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Sept. 8 UTEP
Sept. 15 TEXAS
Sept. 22 at Tulane
Sept. 29 at Alabama
Oct. 6 TEXAS A&M
Oct. 13 AUBURN
Oct. 27 at Arkansas
Nov. 3 at Georgia
Nov. 10 VANDERBILT
Nov. 17 at LSU
Nov. 24 MISSISSIPPI STATE

MISSISSIPPI STATE

Sept. 1 JACKSON STATE
Sept. 8 AUBURN
Sept. 15 at Troy
Sept. 22 SOUTH ALABAMA
Oct. 6 at Kentucky
Oct. 13 TENNESSEE
Oct. 20 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 27 at Alabama
Nov. 3 TEXAS A&M
Nov. 10 at LSU
Nov. 17 ARKANSAS
Nov. 24 at Ole Miss

MISSOURI

Sept. 1 S.E. LOUISIANA
Sept. 8 GEORGIA
Sept. 15 ARIZONA STATE
Sept. 22 at South Carolina
Sept. 29 at UCF
Oct. 6 VANDERBILT
Oct. 13 ALABAMA
Oct. 27 KENTUCKY
Nov. 3 at Florida
Nov. 10 at Tennessee
Nov. 17 SYRACUSE
Nov. 24 at Texas A&M

SOUTH CAROLINA

Aug. 30 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 8 EAST CAROLINA
Sept. 15 UAB
Sept. 22 MISSOURI
Sept. 29 at Kentucky
Oct. 6 GEORGIA
Oct. 13 at LSU
Oct. 20 at Florida
Oct. 27 TENNESSEE
Nov. 10 ARKANSAS
Nov. 17 WOFFORD
Nov. 24 at Clemson

TENNESSEE

Aug. 31 vs. NC State (Atlanta)
Sept. 8 GEORGIA STATE
Sept. 15 FLORIDA
Sept. 22 AKRON
Sept. 29 at Georgia
Oct. 13 at Mississippi State
Oct. 20 ALABAMA
Oct. 27 at South Carolina
Nov. 3 TROY
Nov. 10 MISSOURI
Nov. 17 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 24 KENTUCKY

TEXAS A&M

Aug. 30 at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 8 FLORIDA
Sept. 15 at SMU
Sept. 22 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Sept. 29 ARKANSAS
Oct. 6 at Ole Miss
Oct. 20 LSU
Oct. 27 at Auburn
Nov. 3 at Mississippi State
Nov. 10 at Alabama
Nov. 17 SAM HOUSTON STATE
Nov. 24 MISSOURI

VANDERBILT

Aug. 30 SOUTH CAROLINA
Sept. 8 at Northwestern
Sept. 15 PRESBYTERIAN
Sept. 22 at Georgia
Oct. 6 at Missouri
Oct. 13 FLORIDA
Oct. 20 AUBURN
Oct. 27 MASSACHUSETTS
Nov. 3 at Kentucky
Nov. 10 at Ole Miss
Nov. 17 TENNESSEE
Nov. 24 at Wake Forest

SUN BELT

ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 1 at Oregon
Sept. 8 MEMPHIS
Sept. 15 at Nebraska
Sept. 22 ALCORN STATE
Sept. 29 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 4 at FIU
Oct. 13 SOUTH ALABAMA
Oct. 23 at Louisiana
Nov. 3 at North Texas
Nov. 8 ULM
Nov. 17 at Troy
Dec 1 MIDDLE TENNESSEE

FAU

Aug. 31 WAGNER
Sept. 8 at Middle Tennessee
Sept. 15 at Georgia
Sept. 22 at Alabama
Sept. 29 NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 13 at ULM
Oct. 20 at South Alabama
Oct. 27 TROY
Nov. 3 at Navy
Nov. 10 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 16 FIU
Dec. 1 LOUISIANA

FIU

Sept. 1 at Duke
Sept. 8 AKRON
Sept. 15 at UCF
Sept. 22 LOUISVILLE
Sept. 29 at Louisiana
Oct. 4 ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 13 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 20 at Troy
Oct. 27 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 3 at South Alabama
Nov. 16 at FAU
Nov. 24 ULM

LOUISIANA

Sept. 1 LAMAR
Sept. 8 at Troy
Sept. 15 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 29 FIU
Oct. 6 TULANE
Oct. 16 at North Texas
Oct. 23 ARKANSAS STATE
Nov. 3 at ULM
Nov. 10 at Florida
Nov. 17 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 24 SOUTH ALABAMA
Dec. 1 at FAU

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Aug. 30 McNEESE STATE
Sept. 8 FAU
Sept. 15 at Memphis
Sept. 29 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 6 ULM
Oct. 13 at FIU
Oct. 20 at Mississippi State
Oct. 27 NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 1 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 17 at South Alabama
Nov. 24 TROY
Dec 1 at Arkansas State

NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 1 at LSU
Sept. 8 TEXAS SOUTHERN
Sept. 15 at Kansas State
Sept. 22 TROY
Sept. 29 at FAU
Oct. 6 at Houston
Oct. 16 LOUISIANA
Oct. 27 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 3 ARKANSAS STATE
Nov. 10 SOUTH ALABAMA
Nov. 17 at ULM
Nov. 24 at Western Kentucky

SOUTH ALABAMA

Aug. 30 UTSA
Sept. 8 NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 15 at NC State
Sept. 22 at Mississippi State
Sept. 29 TROY
Oct. 13 at Arkansas State
Oct. 20 FAU
Oct. 27 at ULM
Nov. 3 FIU
Nov. 10 at North Texas
Nov. 17 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 24 at Louisiana
Dec. 1 at Hawaii

TROY

Sept. 1 at UAB
Sept. 8 LOUISIANA
Sept. 15 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 22 at North Texas
Sept. 29 at South Alabama
Oct. 11 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 20 FIU
Oct. 27 at FAU
Nov. 3 at Tennessee
Nov. 10 NAVY
Nov. 17 ARKANSAS STATE
Nov. 24 at Middle Tennessee

ULM

Sept. 8 at Arkansas
Sept. 15 at Auburn
Sept. 22 BAYLOR
Sept. 29 at Tulane
Oct. 6 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 13 FAU
Oct. 20 at Western Kentucky
Oct. 27 SOUTH ALABAMA
Nov. 3 LOUISIANA
Nov. 8 at Arkansas State
Nov. 17 NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 24 at FIU

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Sept. 1 AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 8 at Alabama
Sept. 15 at Kentucky
Sept. 22 SOUTHERN MISS
Sept. 29 at Arkansas State
Oct. 11 at Troy
Oct. 20 ULM
Oct. 27 at FIU
Nov. 1 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 10 FAU
Nov. 17 at Louisiana
Nov. 24 NORTH TEXAS

WAC

IDAHO

Aug. 30 EASTERN WASHINGTON
Sept. 8 at Bowling Green
Sept. 15 at LSU
Sept. 22 WYOMING
Sept. 29 at North Carolina
Oct. 6 NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 13 at Texas State
Oct. 20 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 3 SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 10 at BYU
Nov. 17 UTSA
Nov. 24 at Utah State

LOUISIANA TECH

Aug. 30 TEXAS A&M
Sept. 8 at Houston
Sept. 15 RICE
Sept. 22 at Illinois
Sept. 29 at Virginia
Oct. 6 UNLV
Oct. 20 IDAHO
Oct. 27 at New Mexico State
Nov. 3 UTSA
Nov. 10 at Texas State
Nov. 17 UTAH STATE
Nov. 24 at San Jose State

NEW MEXICO STATE

Sept. 1 SOUTHERN
Sept. 8 at Texas
Sept. 15 at Texas Tech
Sept. 22 at New Mexico State
Sept. 29 BOISE STATE
Oct. 6 TEXAS STATE
Oct. 13 at Hawaii
Oct. 20 at Air Force
Oct. 27 FRESNO STATE
Nov. 3 at UNLV
Nov. 10 WYOMING
Nov. 17 NEVADA
Nov. 24 at Colorado State

SAN JOSE STATE

Sept. 1 at Stanford
Sept. 8 UC Davis
Sept. 15 COLORADO STATE
Sept. 22 at San Diego State
Sept. 29 at Navy
Oct. 13 UTAH STATE
Oct. 20 at UTSA
Oct. 27 TEXAS STATE
Nov. 3 at Idaho
Nov. 10 at New Mexico State
Nov. 17 BYU
Nov. 24 LOUISIANA TECH

TEXAS STATE

Sept. 1 at Houston
Sept. 8 TEXAS TECH
Sept. 22 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Sept. 29 NEVADA
Oct. 6 at New Mexico
Oct. 13 IDAHO
Oct. 27 at San Jose State
Nov. 3 at Utah State
Nov. 10 LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 17 at Navy
Nov. 24 at UTSA
Dec. 1 NEW MEXICO STATE

UTAH STATE

Aug. 30 SOUTHERN UTAH
Sept. 7 UTAH
Sept. 15 at Wisconsin
Sept. 22 at Colorado State
Sept. 29 UNLV
Oct. 5 at BYU
Oct. 13 at San Jose State
Oct. 20 NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 27 at UTSA
Nov. 3 TEXAS STATE
Nov. 17 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 24 IDAHO

UTSA

Aug. 30 at South Alabama
Sept. 8 TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE
Sept. 15 at Georgia State
Sept. 22 N.W. OKLAHOMA STATE
Sept. 29 at New Mexico State
Oct. 13 at Rice
Oct. 20 SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 27 UTAH STATE
Nov. 3 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 10 McNEESE STATE
Nov. 17 at Idaho
Nov. 24 TEXAS STATE

KEEPING THE *faith*

BY BILL SORRELL

Landry Jones is a knee slapper.

When something tickles Jones' funny bone more than normal, he gets a high pitch and automatically slaps his knee.

"Landry is really old school in that sense," said Oklahoma punter Tress Way, who along with other teammates of the Oklahoma quarterback have had countless knee-slapping moments.

There will be more in 2012. Jones decided to stay in school for his senior year.

"I prayed about it for awhile and felt like God was telling me to come back. I really want to enjoy my senior year and my teammates. This is my last go-round and it's a little bit more urgent. There are goals I want to achieve," he said.

Among goals are winning the national championship, the Heisman Trophy and becoming the career leader in victories for an OU quarterback. He enters this season with 29 wins, three behind Steve Davis' record of 32 from 1973-75.

In 2011, Jones moved to first in career passing yards with 12,379, passing Heisman Trophy winners Jason White and Sam Bradford. With 93 career touchdown passes, he broke Bradford's school record. Jones finished sixth nationally last season in total offense, averaging 343.3 yards per game. In 2010, he won the Sammy Baugh Trophy as the nation's top college passer.

Photo by Matt Kartozian-US PRESSWIRE

LANDRY JONES

Despite the accolades, the quote Jones says most is that he is a Christian who happens to play football, not a football player who is a Christian.

Jones is the Sooners' spiritual leader. When middle linebacker Austin Box died accidentally in May 2011 at age 22 of pulmonary edema and aspiration pneumonia, Jones was in Haiti on a mission trip. At a memorial service, Jones spoke about how precious life is. He told teammates if they were unsure that Christ was in their life, they needed to talk with him and get it straight with God.

"Him doing that in front of the team meeting shows how big a factor Christ is in his life," said Way, who is also an evangelical Christian.

Through the influence of "great" parents Kevin and Kellye Jones, Landry made a profession of faith in Christ at age six. He was baptized at First Baptist Church in his hometown of Artesia, N.M.

He attends Antioch Community Church in Norman where pastor Chris Bennett has led him in discipleship. "He is the person that kind of sharpens my sword and works on things in my walk," said Jones.

One of Jones' favorite Bible verses is about a life rooted in Christ. Colossians 2:6-7 reads "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness."

"I'm sure it sounds like a cliché, without Jesus I don't think I would have made it at OU," he said.

During the first part of college, he rebelled against God.

"I believed in Him, but I didn't follow Him. After the first year, I got to the point I was so sad and depressed. If life is not fun, it is not worth it. I was an angry young man."

Slowly he began to follow Christ, whom now is his life, he said. Jones changed his lifestyle. He changed the "girls situation" and the "drinking."

"I changed the way I was living. I was taking a stand. I understood deeper. I needed God in my life. The lifestyle I live (now) is a habit. I understand the deeper meaning of who Jesus is in my life. He is my source of happiness, a comfort in hard times and hope there is a better life.

"It's knowing that when everything is screwed up in your life, everything is going to be OK. Being an athlete that is huge; everything is based on your performance. Everyone judges on wins and losses. You persevere through hard times. With Jesus, there is a big picture of things. At the end of life, you are going to heaven and that is basically the only thing that matters."

Prior to the 2011 season, Jones became engaged to OU point guard Whitney Hand. They are planning to be married in July.

The way he treats his fiance sets him apart said Way, who has listened as Jones relates Christ to the church, whom the Bible says is His bride, and how God "is always pursuing us."

"We are looked at as a thing of beauty, just the way he talks about Whitney," said Way.

Hand has taught Jones, 23, about how to pursue her and encouraged him in the godly pursuit of other people.

"Being engaged, getting married, you realize how to put someone else above you and start being selfless and give your life away to someone else," said Jones.

While he is expected to be a first-round NFL draft choice in 2013, the ministry is also in his plans.

"I'm still trying to figure that out and what it is going to look like. I don't know if I'm going to be a pastor. I'm not sure what God has in store for me." He has also discussed church planting.

"You are to be bold about it and tell people about Him. God is real. If they don't respond, you pray for them. You never give up on people."

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership team, Jones also leads a weekly Bible study for teammates. They recently studied Matthew.

It is Jones' work ethic and competitiveness that gives him an edge.

"On the field, Landry does a great job of reminding us that we are playing for the guy next to us," said Way.

Jones, who was named for Dallas Cowboys coaching legend Tom Landry (Jones is not a Cowboys fan), encourages players to spend time with Christ.

"The best advice he has given me in my walk with Christ is in order for a relationship to get stronger, you have to spend time with that person. That means spending more time with God and reading His word and in prayer," said Way, whose strong leg may land him in the NFL. Averaging 45.7 yards per punt last season, Way, an honorable mention All-Big 12 selection, had a school record 58 punts more than 50 yards each.

What Jones exhibits most, said Way, is joy and love.

"This may sound kind of cheesy, but it is love. He has the biggest heart of anybody I have ever met. It is not so much how many people he cares about, it is how much he cares about those people."

Jones would want people to say that he is a man who loves Jesus and follows Him, is a great leader, a great friend and is loyal.

During the 2011 mission trip to Haiti, Jones, along with the women's basketball team and members of the football team, worked in the Mission of Hope, an orphanage. He saw poverty first hand.

It made a big difference in his life. "You see the family of God in another light. You see how the body of Christ comes together. It gives you a heart for those people. You see how strong they are. You see how God was all they had and it was enough.

"When we choose God and not worldly things and do something for Him, it fills us with joy," said Jones, who plays the guitar and went sky diving three years ago. "Christianity is about how you live, about how you love people and the kind of choices you make."

Football is a gift said Jones and he plans to use it for Christ.

"How I use football is like the platform; the game plan of how to evangelize and show people who Jesus is."

NATIONAL RECRUITING

By Chris Nee
Rivals.com

1 Alabama

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 4, DT – 5, K – 1, LB – 5, OL – 3, QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 1, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: Alabama's class was led by a trio of five-star prospects in Geismar (La.) Dutchtown safety **Landon Collins**, Daphne (Ala.) running back **T.J. Yeldon**, and Panama City (Fla.) Arnold athlete **Eddie Williams**.

The Crimson Tide addressed needs at wide receiver by adding a trio of prospects from Florida. In addition to Williams, Jacksonville (Fla.) First Coast wide receiver **Chris Black** and Miami (Fla.) Northwestern wide receiver **Amari Cooper** also have the ability to contribute early.

On the defensive side of the ball, Alabama signed a strong group at linebacker with five four-star prospects in the group. Madison (Ala.) Bob Jones four-star inside linebacker **Reggie Ragland** is an imposing force at 6-4, 245 pounds. Daphne (Ala.) High four-star outside linebacker **Ryan Anderson** has the capability to come down to the defensive line, and be a difficult speed-rusher off the edge.

Alabama also addressed a need for depth and talent at defensive back by adding a pair from junior college in Thatcher (Ariz.) Eastern Arizona Junior College four-star cornerback **Travell Dixon** and Booneville (Miss.) Northeast Mississippi Community College three-star cornerback **Deion Belue**. Joining Collins from the high school ranks in the secondary will be Atlanta (Ga.) St. Pius X School four-star cornerback **Geno Smith**.

2 Texas

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 5, DB – 2, DE – 3, DT – 4, K – 1, LB – 5, OL – 4, QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: Texas once again competed for the recruiting national title with a strong group of 28 signees. The group was led by a pair of in-state five-star prospects in running back **Johnathan Gray** from Aledo and defensive tackle **Malcom Brown** from Brenham. Gray is an ultra-productive back with great size, while Brown is a thick, dominating force in the middle of the defensive line.

Mack Brown and company added several talented offensive linemen with Harker Heights (Texas) High four-star offensive tackle **Camrhon Hughes**, Pearland (Texas) Dawson four-star offensive tackle **Kennedy Estelle**, DeSoto (Texas) High four-star offensive guard **Curtis Riser** and Senatoba (Miss.) Northwest Mississippi Community College four-star offensive tackle **Donald Hawkins**.

They also addressed needs on the defensive line from both the high school and junior college ranks. Joining Brown from the high school ranks is Humble (Texas) four-star defensive tackle **Paul Boyette Jr.** and Dallas (Texas) Bishop Dunne three-star defensive tackle **Alex Norman**. Scooba (Miss.) East Mississippi Community College three-star defensive tackle **Brandon Moore** is a massive 6-6, 335-pound defensive tackle from the junior college ranks.

Two other prospects who could make an early impact at Texas are Austin (Texas) four-star wide receiver **Cayleb Jones** and Athens (Texas) four-star athlete **Kendall Sanders**.

3 Florida

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 4, DE – 5, DT – 3, K – 1, LB – 2, OL – 2, QB – 1, RB – 1, TE – 2, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: Will Muschamp and staff put together a very strong class in their first full year of recruiting for the Gators. The class is led by a pair of five-star defensive ends in Shelby (N.C.) Crest's **Jonathan Bullard** and St. Petersburg (Fla.) Lakewood's **Dante Fowler Jr.** The Gators also attained the services of five-star offensive tackle **D.J. Humphries** from Charlotte (N.C.) Mallard Creek. Another standout is Land O'Lakes (Fla.) High four-star tight end **Kent Taylor**, who was the top ranked tight end in the nation.

In total, Florida added five defensive ends. Joining Bullard and Fowler Jr. is a trio of three-star prospects in Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas' **Bryan Cox Jr.**, Clemmons (N.C.) West Forsyth's **Alex McCalister** and Tyrone (Ga.) Sandy Creek's **Quinteze Williams**. The defensive tackle group was led by two big men in the middle in Scooba (Miss.) East Mississippi Community College four-star defensive tackle **Damien Jacobs** and Venice (Fla.) four-star defensive tackle **Dante Phillips**.

The Gators also added some top-end talent in the defensive secondary with a pair of in-state signees in Melbourne (Fla.) Holy Trinity four-star safety **Marcus Maye** and Bradenton (Fla.) Southeast four-star cornerback **Brian Poole**.

Joining Taylor at tight end is Warminster (Pa.) Archbishop Wood Catholic four-star tight end **Colin Thompson**, who is an elite blocking tight end.

Seffner (Fla.) Armwood four-star running back **Matt Jones** is a big back that is a very capable receiver out of the backfield.

Another skill position player who brings a lot of versatility to the Gators offensive attack will be Citra (Fla.) North Marion four-star wide receiver **Latroy Pittman**.

Boynton Beach (Fla.) offensive guard **Jessamen Dunker** joins Humphries as the only other offensive lineman signee in the class, but he will provide the Gators with a big and athletic offensive guard down the road.

4 Ohio State

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 1, DB – 4, DE – 3, DT – 1, LB – 4, OL – 5, QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: The Buckeyes finished as strong as anyone in the nation after the hiring of Urban Meyer. Their 25-man class is led by two five-star defensive ends — Harrisburg (Pa.) Bishop McDevitt's **Noah Spence** and Cincinnati (Ohio) Taft's **Adolphus Washington**.

Joining Spence and Washington at defensive end will be Canton (Ohio) McKinley four-star defensive end **Se'von Pittman**.

Playing beside that strong defensive end class will be Glen Ellyn (Ill.) Glenbard West four-star defensive tackle **Tommy Schutt**.

Another defensive standout is West Roxbury (Mass.) Catholic Memorial four-star inside linebacker **Camren Williams**, the top player from Massachusetts. He will be joined at linebacker by Galen (Ohio) Olentangy four-star outside linebacker **Josh Perry**.

The offensive class is headlined by Windsor (Colo.) four-star offensive tackle **Joey O'Connor**. Joining him in the trenches will be Vandalia (Ohio) Butler four-star offensive tackle **Taylor Decker**, Cleveland (Ohio) Heights four-star offensive tackle **Kyle Dodson**, Pickerington (Ohio) Central three-star offensive guard **Jacoby Boren**, and Pickerington (Ohio) North three-star offensive guard **Pat Elflein**.

Some offensive playmakers in the class include Columbus (Ohio) St. Francis DeSales four-star running back **Warren Ball**, Canton (Ohio) Glenoak four-star running back **Bri'onte Dunn**, South Bend (Ind.) Washington four-star athlete **David Perkins**, and Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy four-star wide receiver **Michael Thomas**.

5 Stanford

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 3, DE – 3, DT – 2, LB – 2, OL – 7, RB – 1, WR – 4

THE BUZZ: Nearly one-third of Stanford's signing class was along the offensive line, where they brought in seven prospects. The depth and quality of the group is impressive. Tempe (Ariz.) Corona Del Sol five-star offensive tackle **Andrus Peat** and San Clemente (Calif.) High five-star offensive tackle **Kyle Murphy** lead the group. Four of the other five signees along the offensive line are four-star prospects — Eden Prairie (Minn.) High offensive tackle **Nick Davidson**, Brentwood (Tenn.) Brentwood Academy offensive tackle **Graham Shuler**, Pleasant Grove (Utah) High offensive guard **Brandon Fanaika**, and Puyallup (Wash.) High offensive guard **Joshua Garnett**.

Another standout signee for the Cardinal is Atwater (Calif.) Buhach five-star defensive end **Aziz Shittu**. Honolulu (Hawaii) Punahou four-star defensive end **Luke Kaumatule** and College Park (Ga.) Woodward Academy four-star defensive tackle **Jordan Watkins** are another two to keep an eye on.

Ashburn (Va.) Briar Woods four-star safety **Alex Carter** and Leesburg (Fla.) High four-star outside linebacker **Noor Davis** can make an early contribution.

Top offensive skill position signees include Oklahoma City (Okla.) Heritage Hall four-star running back **Barry Sanders** and Los Angeles (Calif.) Loyola four-star wide receiver **Kodi Whitfield**.

6 Florida State

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 3, DE – 1, DT – 4, K – 2, LB – 2, OL – 2, QB – 2, RB – 1, TE – 1, WR – 1

THE BUZZ: Florida State signed three five-star prospects, including a pair of defensive tackles. Hueytown (Ala.) dual-threat quarterback **Jameis Winston** can do damage with his arm and legs. Defensively, Denton (Texas) Ryan defensive tackle **Mario Edwards** and Washington (D.C.) Friendship Collegiate Academy defensive tackle **Eddie Goldman** are a strong duo in the middle.

The defensive line class is strong for the Seminoles with the likes of Prattville (Ala.) High four-star defensive tackle **Justin Shanks** and Mobile (Ala.)

Davidson four-star defensive end **Chris Casher** joining Edwards and Goldman.

The Seminoles are excited about Stone Mountain (Ga.) four-star linebacker **Ukeme Eligwe** and Jacksonville (Fla.) First Coast four-star linebacker **Reggie Northrup**.

The defensive back group is led by four-star cornerback **Ronald Darby** from Oxon Hill (Md.) Potomac and a pair of four-star safeties in Ocala (Fla.) Vanguard's **P.J. Williams** and San Antonio (Texas) Brandeis' **Colin Blake**.

Winston is coming in along with some good offensive talent. Cape Coral (Fla.) Island Coast four-star running back **Mario Pender** is a nice mix of speed and size. Orlando (Fla.) Boone four-star wide receiver **Marvin Bracy** has elite speed. Orange (Calif.) Lutheran four-star tight end **Christo Kourtzidis** is a capable blocker who is also a threat down the field in the passing game.

The offensive line group has a pair of junior college signees in Mission Viejo (Calif.) Saddleback Community College offensive tackle **Menelik Watson** and Roswell (N.M.) New Mexico Military Institute three-star offensive tackle **Daniel Glauser**.

7 Michigan

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 4, DE – 3, DT – 3, LB – 4, OL – 4, RB – 3, TE – 2, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: Brady Hoke and Michigan landed a special player in Kansas City (Mo.) Park Hill five-star defensive tackle **Ondre Pipkins**. Pipkins is massive at 6-3, 325 pounds and is surprisingly athletic when pursuing quarterbacks and ball carriers.

Another top signee is Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward five-star offensive tackle **Kyle Kalis**, considered the top prospect in Ohio for the 2012 class.

A couple of other talented offensive linemen taking their ability to the Wolverines are Carlsbad (Calif.) La Costa Canyon four-star offensive tackle **Erik Magnuson** and Nashville (Tenn.) Montgomery Bell Academy four-star offensive tackle **Blake Bars**.

Switching back to defense, Michigan landed a strong linebacker group led by four-star inside linebacker **Royce Jenkins-Stone** from Detroit (Mich.) Cass Tech and a pair of four-star outside linebackers in Orchard Lake (Mich.) St. Mary's **James Ross** and Cincinnati (Ohio) Colerain's **Joe Bolden**.

A pair of offensive skill players to keep an eye on are Detroit (Mich.) Martin Luther King four-star running back **Dennis Norfleet** and West Des Moines (Iowa) Dowling four-star wide receiver **Amara Darboh**. Norfleet is a versatile running back who is great at creating in space, while Darboh is a bigger target at wide receiver with excellent speed.

8 Southern California

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 3, DE – 3, LB – 2, OL – 3, RB – 1, TE – 1, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: USC signed just 15 prospects, but only two of them are ranked below four-star status. Low on quantity, but extremely high on quality.

All three five-star prospects in the class play on the offensive side of the ball. Tampa (Fla.) Berkeley Prep five-star wide receiver **Nelson Agholor** is a versatile offensive weapon who can make an instant impact. Lakewood (Wash.) Lakes five-star offensive tackle **Zach Banner** is massive at 6-9, 310 pounds, while Encino (Calif.) Crespi five-star offensive guard **Jordan Simmons** also has his fair share of bulk at 6-5, 333 pounds.

Joining Banner and Simmons up-front on the offensive line is Santa Margarita (Calif.) Catholic four-star offensive tackle **Max Tuerk**.

The Trojans didn't just dip into Florida for Agholor, they also got a very talented defensive end from the Sunshine State in Daytona Beach (Fla.) Mainland four-star **Leonard Williams**.

The defensive back haul was also very good as they landed Woodland Hills (Calif.) Pierce Community College four-star safety **Gerald Bowman**, the nation's top junior college player. Joining Bowman will be Inglewood (Calif.) High four-star cornerback **Devian Shelton** and Pasadena (Calif.) Muir four-star cornerback **Kevon Seymour**.

9 Miami

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 1, DB – 8, DE – 5, DT – 3, LB – 3, OL – 3, QB – 3, RB – 2, WR – 5

THE BUZZ: Miami signed the largest class in the nation with 33 prospects. The Hurricanes added much needed depth, especially at defensive back, along the defensive line, at quarterback and at wide receiver.

The top two prospects in Miami's class hail from right around the corner from the campus. Miami (Fla.) Norland five-star all-purpose back **Randy 'Duke' Johnson** was arguably the top high school player in the Sunshine State. Miramar (Fla.) five-star cornerback **Tracy Howard** was ranked the top college prospect from Florida in the 2012 class.

Joining Howard at the top of the class is Miami (Fla.) Columbus four-star safety **Deon Bush**.

Other top defensive signees include Tampa (Fla.) Jefferson four-star defensive end **Tyriq McCord**, Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas four-star defensive end **Jelani Hamilton**, and Stone Mountain (Ga.) Stephenson four-star linebacker **Raphael Kirby**.

Offensive standouts include four-star wide receivers **Robert Lockhart** and **Malcolm Lewis**. Lockhart, from Fork Union (Va.) Fork Union Military Academy, has good size and runs precise routes. Lewis, who was teammates with Howard at Miramar (Fla.) High, is a quick wide receiver with sure hands.

Miami (Fla.) Norland four-star offensive tackle **Ereck Flowers** has a high ceiling as an edge blocker and could be an early contributor.

Wellington (Fla.) Palm Beach Central four-star athlete **Angelo Jean-Louis** could contribute on either side of the ball.

10 Auburn

THE PARTICULARS: DB – 3, DE – 1, DT – 1, LB – 2, OL – 7, QB – 2, RB – 1, TE – 2, WR – 2

THE BUZZ: Gene Chizik and Auburn signed a top 10 class on the shoulders of a strong offensive line group. Out of the seven signees on the offensive line, five of them are ranked as four-star prospects. The top offensive line signee for the Tigers was Palm Beach Gardens (Fla.) four-star offensive tackle **Avery Young**. Joining Young at the tackle spot is four-star **Shane Callahan** from Parker (Colo.) Chaparral, four-star **Patrick Miller** from West Palm Beach (Fla.) Dwyer, and four-star **Jordan Diamond** from Chicago (Ill.) Simeon. Castle Rock (Colo.) Valor Christian four-star offensive guard **Alex Kozan** also opted for Auburn.

Both wide receiver signees — Tyrone (Ga.) Sandy Creek four-star **JaQuay Williams** and Miami Beach (Fla.) four-star **Ricardo Louis** — offer good size and athleticism.

Four-star tight end **Ricky Parks** from Hogansville (Ga.) Callaway and four-star running back **Jovon Robinson** from Memphis (Tenn.) Wooddale are also solid offensive additions for the Tigers.

Fairburn (Ga.) Creekside cornerback **Joshua Holsey** was the top defensive signee for Auburn in 2012. He and Birmingham (Ala.) Woodlawn four-star outside linebacker **Cassanova McKinzy** have the potential to make an early contribution.

11 Oklahoma

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 2, DE – 3, LB – 1, OL – 4, QB – 1, RB – 3, TE – 4, WR – 5

THE BUZZ: The Sooners top signee was a prospect who they originally landed the services of in 2011 — five-star wide receiver **Trey Metoyer** — who had to go to prep school in order to qualify.

Metoyer leads a strong wide receiver group that also includes St. Louis (Mo.) DeSmet four-star wide receiver **Durron Neal**, Oklahoma City (Okla.) Heritage Hall four-star wide receiver **Sterling Shepard**, Inglewood (Calif.) High four-star wide receiver **Derrick Woods** and Roseville (Calif.) Sierra Community College four-star wide receiver **Courtney Gardner**.

The offensive class also included four-star quarterback **Trevon Knight** of San Antonio (Texas) Ronald Reagan, four-star running back **Alex Ross** of Jenks (Okla.), four-star tight end **Taylor McNamara** of San Diego (Calif.) Westview, and a pair of four-star offensive lineman in Santa Clarita (Calif.) College of the Canyons offensive tackle **Will Latu** and Apopka (Fla.) **Ty Darlington**.

The top defensive signee in the class was Seffner (Fla.) Armwood four-star outside linebacker **Eric Striker**. Overall, just six of the signees for the Sooners were on the defensive side of the ball.

12 Georgia

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DE – 4, DT – 2, K – 2, OL – 3, QB – 1, RB – 3, TE – 1, WR – 1

THE BUZZ: Georgia landed two five-star prospects in the 2012 class. Jacksonville (Fla.) Bolles five-star offensive tackle **John Theus** will join his brother, long snapper Nathan Theus, in Athens. The top prospect in the Peach State in 2012, Valdosta (Ga.) Lowndes five-star athlete **Josh Harvey-Clemons**, decided to play for the Bulldogs.

In total, 11 of the 19 signees come from the Peach State. Joining Harvey-Clemons at the top of that group is Hamilton (Ga.) Harris County four-star defen-

sive end **Jordan Jenkins**, Millen (Ga.) Jenkins County four-star defensive tackle **Jonathan Taylor**, Eastman (Ga.) Dodge County four-star defensive end **Leonard Floyd**, and Tucker (Ga.) four-star defensive end **Josh Dawson**.

After Theus, the top offensive prospects for Georgia are two running backs who both hail from North Carolina. Raleigh (N.C.) Millbrook four-star all-purpose back **Keith Marshall** is a talented runner with great speed, while Tarboro (N.C.) four-star running back **Todd Gurley** has a great combination of speed and size.

13 UCLA

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DB – 4, DE – 3, DT – 1, K – 1, LB – 1, OL – 5, QB – 1, RB – 1, TE – 1, WR – 5

THE BUZZ: Jim Mora immediately got to work after being hired at UCLA and put together a strong finish over the final month of the recruiting season. His top get was five-star defensive tackle **Ellis McCarthy** from Monrovia (Calif.) High.

Other prospects landed over the final month of the process include Old Tappan (N.J.) High four-star athlete **Devin Fuller**, Westlake Village (Calif.) Oaks Christian four-star wide receiver **Jordan Payton**, Chandler (Ariz.) High four-star wide receiver **Javon Williams**, and Murrieta (Calif.) Vista Murrieta four-star defensive end **Jeremy Castro**.

Westlake Village (Calif.) Oaks Christian four-star defensive back **Ishmael Adams** pledged to Mora and company after their arrival.

One holdover from the previous staff that is capable of making an immediate impact is Compton (Calif.) Dominguez four-star offensive tackle **Lacy Westbrook**.

14 Clemson

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DB – 3, DE – 2, DT – 3, K – 1, LB – 1, OL – 5, QB – 1, WR – 1

THE BUZZ: Clemson put together a solid class that added talented depth and some prospects that could contribute early on in their careers.

The top prospect in the class was Tallahassee (Fla.) North Florida Christian four-star safety **Travis Blanks**. The top offensive prospect was Charlotte (N.C.) Phillip O Berry Academy of Technology four-star wide receiver **Germone Hopper**.

Jonesboro (Ark.) Jonesboro Senior four-star athlete **Zac Brooks** could find his way onto the field early. His primary position will be as a running back, but his unique combination of speed and size at 6-2, 180 pounds makes him valuable in Clemson's spread attack.

Defensive tackle **Carlos Watkins**, a four-star prospect from Forest City (N.C.) Chase could find his way onto the field early.

Buffalo (N.Y.) St. Joseph's four-star quarterback **Chad Kelly** likely won't be called upon early in his career at Clemson, but he is a good athlete with a big arm who can fill the void that will be left when Tajh Boyd concludes his career.

15 Texas A&M

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 1, DB – 3, DE – 5, DT – 1, LB – 1, OL – 3, QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: Texas A&M prepared for their move to the SEC by signing a strong class led by one of the nation's best offensive players. Spring (Texas) Dekaney five-star running back **Trey Williams** is a dynamic weapon who had an ultra-productive high school career, with more than 8,000 rushing yards over his final three seasons and scoring over 80 rushing touchdowns.

The offensive class also includes Houston (Texas) four-star quarterback **Matt Davis** and Dallas (Texas) Skyline four-star wide receiver **Thomas Johnson**. Davis can make things happen with his arms and his legs and shows great leadership skills. Johnson could work inside or outside and is very good after the catch. The best offensive lineman in the group is Missouri City (Texas) Elkins four-star center **Mike Matthews**, who was the nation's top center in the 2012 class.

The defensive class is led by Mesquite (Texas) Horn four-star cornerback **DeVante Harris**. Harris is a 5-11, 160-pound cornerback. Four-star outside linebacker **Jordan Richmond** of Denton (Texas) Ryan also make his way onto the field early.

Carthage (Texas) High four-star athlete **Edward Pope** (6-3, 170) was a defensive back for most of his high school career, but had a great senior season at wide receiver. He could contribute on either side of the ball.

16 Oregon

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 1, DB – 3, DE – 5, DT – 1, K – 1, LB – 1, OL – 1, QB – 2, RB – 1, TE – 2, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: Chip Kelly and Oregon signed 21 prospects in their 2012 class. The top prospect was Elk Grove (Calif.) Pleasant Grove four-star defensive end **Arik Armstead**. Armstead could play on either side of the ball, as he also projects as an offensive tackle at 6-8, 280 pounds

Armstead wasn't the only standout defensive end in the Oregon's class. He was joined by Portland (Oregon) Central Catholic four-star defensive end **Alex Balducci** and Honolulu (Hawaii) Punahou four-star defensive end **DeForest Buckner**.

Hillsboro (Ore.) Liberty four-star outside linebacker **Brett Bafaro** was another top defensive signee for the Ducks.

On the offensive side, Oregon loaded up with top-tier talent at the skill positions. Rocklin (Calif.) Whitney four-star quarterback **Jake Rodrigues** has excellent arm strength and accuracy.

Rodrigues will like targets such as Cincinnati (Ohio) Taft four-star wide receiver **Dwayne Stanford** and Missouri City (Texas) Hightower four-star wide receiver **Bralon Addison**. Oregon also added two athletic tight ends in Lyndhurst (Ohio) Brush four-star **Pharaoh Brown** and Aurora (Colo.) Grandview four-star **Evan Baylis**. San Jose (Calif.) Valley Christian four-star running back **Byron Marshall** is one of the nation's best.

17 Tennessee

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DB – 3, DE – 3, DT – 2, K – 1, LB – 1, QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 1, WR – 4

THE BUZZ: The Volunteers were looking for immediate help at wide receiver and they turned to the junior college ranks in Hutchinson (Kansas) Hutchinson Community College four-star wideout **Cordarrelle Patterson**. Patterson, who is 6-4, 205 pounds, is a big outside target who can to stretch the field.

Patterson leads a strong group of wide receivers. He is joined by Norcross (Ga.) High four-star wide receiver **Jason Croom**, Jackson (Tenn.) Christian four-star wide receiver **Drae Bowles**, and Orlando (Fla.) Edgewater four-star wide receiver **Alton Howard**.

They will be happy to know that they are coming in along with a talented quarterback in Fruit Cove (Fla.) Bartram Trail four-star signal-caller **Nathan Peterman**. Peterman is a smart quarterback with a strong arm, nice touch.

Four-star athlete **Davante Bourque** from Crowley (La.) High will likely end up at running back. The 6-3, 200-pounder provides good size in the offensive backfield and is explosive with the ball in his hands.

The defensive class is headlined by Dallas (Texas) Wilmer-Hutchins four-star safety **LaDarrell McNeil**. Joining McNeill in the secondary will be fellow four-star cornerback **Deion Bonner** of Columbus (Ga.) Carver.

A pair of four-star defensive tackles also are making their way to Knoxville. Milledgeville (Ga.) Georgia Military College defensive tackle **Daniel McCullers** was a top junior college prospect. Flint (Mich.) Powers Catholic defensive tackle **Danny O'Brien** is coming from the high school ranks.

18 LSU

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 1, DB – 5, DE – 1, K – 1, LB – 5, OL – 5, QB – 1, TE – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: Despite coming off a season where the Tigers played for the national championship, they find themselves down in the pack a bit with regards to recruiting rankings. While the class doesn't have any five-star prospects or headline grabbers, it does include a lot of talent.

One big need addressed by Les Miles and his staff was along the offensive line. They brought in five linemen led by New Orleans (La.) Edna Karr four-star offensive tackle **Derek Edinburgh** and Buford (Ga.) four-star offensive guard **Vadal Alexander**.

The Tigers are also bringing in skill talent on the offensive side of the ball in two outside receivers. Pompano Beach (Fla.) Blanche Ely four-star wide receiver **Avery Johnson** and Breaux Bridge (La.) four-star wide receiver **Travin Dural** are both big, athletic targets.

The top defensive signee for the Tigers was New Orleans (La.) O. Perry Walker four-star cornerback **Dwayne Thomas**. Other top defensive signees include Katy (Texas) Morton Ranch four-star defensive end **Danielle Hunter**, Oxford (Ala.) four-star outside linebacker **Kwon Alexander** and Patterson (La.) four-star outside linebacker **Lorenzo Phillips**.

Four-star athlete **Lamar Louis** from Breaux Bridge (La.) High will also likely end up on defense, starting his career at linebacker.

19 South Carolina

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 5, DE, – 2, DT – 1, K – 1, LB – 2, OL – 5, QB – 1, RB – 2, TE – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: The Gamecocks landed two major offensive weapons in their 2012 signing class in Stone Mountain (Ga.) Stephenson four-star running back **Mike Davis** and Lexington (S.C.) High four-star wide receiver **Shaq Roland**. Davis is a productive back with good size and speed who can do work in-between the tackles or on the outside. Roland is a big-play wide receiver who can score in a variety of ways.

Another wide receiver to keep an eye on will be Monroe (N.C.) Sun Valley four-star **Jody Fuller**. The 6-0, 200-pound wide receiver with 4.5 speed could find a role early in his career with the Gamecocks.

Four-star athlete **Jerell Adams**, who is making his way to South Carolina after spending a year at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy, will likely start out as a tight end.

The five-man offensive line class is led by four-star tackle **Brock Stadnik** of Greensboro (N.C.) Western Guilford and four-star guard **Joe Harris** of Lithonia (Ga.).

The top defensive signees for Steve Spurrier and his staff are a pair of safeties — Cape Coral (Fla.) Island Coast four-star **Jordan Diggs** and College Park (Ga.) Banneker four-star **Chaz Elder**.

20 Notre Dame

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 4, DE – 1, DT – 2, OL – 3, QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: Notre Dame landed its biggest commitment in mid-January when five-star quarterback **Gunner Kiel** of Columbus (Ind.) East High flipped his commitment from LSU and immediately enrolled in South Bend. Kiel, the top-ranked pro-style quarterback in the country, has the potential to be one of the next great college quarterbacks.

In the future, Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral four-star wide receiver **Davonte Neal** will likely be a popular target for Kiel. Neal is a smooth wide receiver with great speed who is excellent after the catch.

Austintown (Ohio) Austintown Fitch four-star running back **William Mahone** will be another key cog in Notre Dame's offensive attack. Everett (Wash.) Mariner four-star athlete **KeiVarae Russell** could end up in the backfield with Mahone or on the outside as a wide receiver, but his future is definitely on the offensive side of the ball.

Las Vegas (Nev.) Bishop Gorman four-star offensive tackle **Ronnie Stanley** is the top offensive linemen making his way to South Bend.

On defense, East Orange (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep four-star safety **Elijah Shumate** will likely be looked upon to contribute early in a thin defensive backfield for Notre Dame.

The front seven added some bulk on defense when a pair of four-star defensive tackles — Indianapolis (Ind.) Warren Central's **Sheldon Day** and Rochester (N.Y.) Aquinas Institute's **Jarron Jones** — signed with Notre Dame.

Fresno (Calif.) Washington Union four-star cornerback **Tee Shapard** was a top signee for the Irish and enrolled early in South Bend, but he has already withdrawn from school and departed from Brian Kelly's team.

21 Washington

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DB – 4, DE – 4, DT – 1, K – 2, LB – 1, OL – 5, QB – 2, RB – 2, WR – 1

THE BUZZ: Washington's class was headlined by Sacramento (Calif.) Grant five-star safety **Shaq Thompson**. Thompson pledged his services to the Huskies and gives them a physical, imposing safety to build a defense around. He was considered the top prospect in California for the 2012 class.

On the offensive side of the ball, Steve Sarkisian is getting a pair of talented quarterbacks to work with in Denver (Colo.) Mullen four-star **Cyler Miles** and Mercer Island (Wash.) High four-star **Jeff Lindquist**.

Four-star athlete **Jaydon Mickens** likely ends up on the offensive side of the ball as a wide receiver. The 5-8, 170-pounder is a quick, elusive target in the open field who will likely play the slot position.

On defense, Compton (Calif.) Dominguez four-star cornerback **Brandon Beaver** will join Thompson in the secondary.

Patterson (Calif.) High four-star defensive end **Pio Vatuvei** could also find his way onto the field early on in his career.

22 Virginia Tech

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DB – 5, DE – 3, DT – 2, LB – 5, OL – 3, RB – 3, TE – 1, WR – 3

THE BUZZ: The top player in Frank Beamer's 2012 signing class was Midlothian (Va.) Clover Hill four-star athlete **Joel Caleb**. Caleb will likely end up a wide receiver when he arrives in Blacksburg and he will be a nice weapon for the Hokies. He is a physical player at 6-2, 201 pounds with the ability to make big plays in a variety of ways.

Caleb wasn't the only top offensive weapon lured to Virginia Tech in 2012, as a pair of running back signees are worth keeping an eye on. Chesapeake (Va.) Oscar Smith four-star running back **J.C. Coleman** and Exton (Pa.) Downingtown East four-star running back **Drew Harris** are both explosive. Coleman is more of a small, shifty back, while Harris is a physical, tough runner.

On defense, the Hokies loaded up at linebacker, signing a total of five at the position. Chesterfield (Va.) Lloyd C. Bird four-star outside linebacker **Deon Clarke** is the top prospect in the group. Also keep an eye on Clifton (Va.) Centreville four-star outside linebacker **Ken Ekanem** and Ringgold (Va.) Dan River four-star outside linebacker **Trey Edmunds**.

Miami (Fla.) Central four-star cornerback **Donaldven Manning** isn't physically intimidating, but he has excellent quickness and good instincts making him a perfect fit in the Virginia Tech secondary.

23 California

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 2, DT – 1, K – 1, LB – 2, OL – 4, QB – 1, RB – 2, WR – 4

THE BUZZ: The top prospect in the Golden Bears' 2012 signing class is a talented pro-style quarterback Danville (Calif.) San Ramon Valley four-star signal-caller **Zach Kline**. Kline has shown the ability to attack all parts of the field with a big arm and good accuracy.

He will have a nice group of receivers stepping on campus along with him, led by a trio of four-star wideouts — Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco's **Bryce Treggs**, Lakewood's (Calif.) **Darius Power**, and Upland (Calif.) High's **Kenny Lawler**. There is also a good chance that Lakewood (Wash.) Lakes four-star athlete **Cedric Dozier** ends up catching passes.

The offensive line signing class was led by Richmond (Calif.) Salesia four-star offensive tackle **Freddie Tagaloa**.

Cal signed just one defensive prospect considered a four-star or higher and that was Concord (Calif.) De La Salle inside linebacker **Michael Barton**.

24 Rutgers

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 3, DE – 2, K – 1, LB – 2, OL – 5, QB – 1, RB – 1, WR – 4

THE BUZZ: Despite going through a coaching change on the verge of signing day, Rutgers was able to retain a majority of its commitments and add a few down the stretch to finish with a top 25 class.

The top commitment for the Scarlet Knights came from Ramsey (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep five-star defensive end **Darius Hamilton,** who opted to stay home for his college career just days before signing day.

Another top addition on the defensive side was Sicklerville (N.J.) Timber Creek four-star inside linebacker **Quanzell Lambert**. The 6-2, 230-pound inside linebacker could be an early contributor for the Big East program.

The offensive class for Rutgers was led by Boyertown (Pa.) Boyertown Area Senior four-star offensive tackle **Chris Muller** and fellow four-star offensive tackle **J.J. Denman** from Fairless Hills (Pa.) Pennsbury.

Ramsey (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep four-star wide receiver **Leonte Carroo** is the top skill position player coming in on the offensive side of the ball.

25 Nebraska

THE PARTICULARS: ATH – 2, DB – 1, DE – 2, DT – 2, LB – 4, OL – 2, QB – 1, RB – 1, TE – 1, WR – 1

THE BUZZ: Nebraska signed a smaller class that was split down the middle with regards to offensive and defensive signees. The top signee in the class came on the defensive side of the ball in Thatcher (Ariz.) Eastern Arizona Junior College four-star cornerback **Mohammed Seisay**. Seisay can be an immediate contributor for the Cornhuskers.

Other possible early contributors on defense for Bo Pelini and his staff will be Riverside (Calif.) Riverside Community College four-star outside linebacker **Zaire Anderson** and Akron (Ohio) Hoban four-star defensive end **Greg McMullen**.

On offense, Arvada (Colo.) Arvada West four-star offensive tackle **Paul Thurston** is the top signee for the Huskers.

Lombard (Ill.) Montini four-star wide receiver **Jordan Westerkamp** is the top skill position player on offense making his way to Lincoln next year.

Winnfield (La.) Winnfield Senior four-star athlete **Alonzo Moore** has the capability to contribute on either side of the ball upon his arrival at Nebraska.

100 FOR 2012

INCOMING FRESHMEN

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

QUARTERBACKS

Rk	Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School	College
10.	Jameis Winston	6-4/200	Hueytown (AL) Hueytown	Florida State
20.	Gunner Kiel	6-4/220	Columbus (IN) East	Notre Dame
35.	Cyler Miles	6-4/220	Denver (CO) Mullen	Washington
44.	Zach Kline	6-2/210	Danville (CA) San Ramon Valley	California
59.	Tanner Mangum	6-3/195	Eagle (ID) Eagle	BYU

RUNNING BACKS

5.	Johnathan Gray	5-11/190	Aledo (TX) Aledo	Texas
12.	T.J. Yeldon	6-2/205	Daphne (AL) Daphne	Alabama
15.	Trey Williams	5-8/175	Spring (TX) Dekaney	Texas A&M
30.	Randy Johnson	5-9/180	Miami (FL) Miami Norland	Miami (FL)
38.	Mario Pender	6-0/185	Cape Coral (FL) Island Coast	Florida State
42.	Todd Gurley	6-1/195	Tarboro (NC) Tarboro	Georgia
48.	Keith Marshall	5-11/190	Raleigh (NC) Millbrook	Georgia
55.	Rushel Shell	6-0/210	Aliquippa (PA) Hopewell	Pittsburgh
63.	Mike Davis	5-10/200	Stone Mountain (GA) Stephenson	South Carolina

WIDE RECEIVERS

1.	Dorial Green-Beckham	6-6/220	Springfield (MO) Hillcrest	Missouri
8.	Stefon Diggs	6-0/185	Olney (MD) Our Lady Of Good Counsel	Maryland
18.	Nelson Agholor	6-2/180	Tampa (FL) Berkeley Prep	USC
34.	Thomas Johnson	6-0/180	Dallas (TX) Skyline	Texas A&M
41.	Cayleb Jones	6-3/198	Austin (TX) Austin	Texas
45.	Amari Cooper	6-1/175	Miami (FL) Northwestern	Alabama
49.	Deontay Greenberry	6-3/187	Fresno (CA) Washington Union	Houston
58.	Chris Black	5-11/170	Jacksonville (FL) First Coast	Alabama
62.	Durron Neal	6-1/195	State Louis (MO) DeSmet	Oklahoma
66.	Shaq Roland	6-1/170	Lexington (SC) Lexington	South Carolina
75.	Germone Hopper	6-0/165	Charlotte (NC) Phillip O Berry Acad Of Tech	Clemson
81.	Bryce Treggs	5-11/171	Bellflower (CA) State John Bosco	California
87.	Gabriel Marks	6-0/175	Los Angeles (CA) Venice	Washington State
90.	JaQuay Williams	6-3/204	Tyrone (GA) Sandy Creek	Auburn
93.	Jordan Payton	6-2/199	Westlake Village (CA) Oaks Christian	UCLA

TIGHT ENDS

54.	Kent Taylor	6-5/220	Land O'Lakes (FL) Land O' Lakes	Florida

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

2.	D.J. Humphries	6-5/265	Charlotte (NC) Mallard Creek	Florida
16.	Zach Banner	6-9/310	Lakewood (WA) Lakes	USC
19.	Kyle Murphy	6-7/275	San Clemente (CA) San Clemente	Stanford
22.	Kyle Kalis	6-5/302	Lakewood (OH) State Edward	Michigan
23.	John Theus	6-6/292	Jacksonville (FL) Bolles	Georgia
29.	Jordan Simmons	6-5/333	Encino (CA) Crespi	USC
32.	Andrus Peat	6-7/305	Tempe (AZ) Corona Del Sol	Stanford
33.	Joshua Garnett	6-5/295	Puyallup (WA) Puyallup	Stanford
46.	Max Tuerk	6-6/294	Santa Margarita (CA) Santa Margarita	USC
52.	Isaac Seumalo	6-3/280	Corvallis (OR) Corvallis	Oregon State
67.	Kennedy Estelle	6-7/300	Pearland (TX) Dawson	Texas
74.	Avery Young	6-6/273	Palm Beach Gardens (FL) Palm Beach Gardens	Auburn
78.	Erik Magnuson	6-6/275	Carlsbad (CA) La Costa Canyon	Michigan
96.	Curtis Riser	6-3/283	DeSoto (TX) DeSoto	Texas
100.	Chris Muller	6-6/287	Boyertown (PA) Boyertown Area Senior	Rutgers

DEFENSIVE ENDS

6.	Jonathan Bullard	6-4/255	Shelby (NC) Crest	Florida
9.	Noah Spence	6-4/245	Harrisburg (PA) Bishop McDevitt	Ohio State
11.	Darius Hamilton	6-4/245	Ramsey (NJ) Don Bosco Prep	Rutgers
25.	Adolphus Washington	6-4/230	Cincinnati (OH) Taft	Ohio State
27.	Aziz Shittu	6-3/275	Atwater (CA) Buhach	Stanford
28.	Dante Fowler Jr.	6-3/232	State Petersburg (FL) Lakewood	Florida
36.	Chris Casher	6-4/225	Mobile (AL) Davidson	Florida State
50.	Eli Harold	6-4/215	Virginia Beach (VA) Ocean Lakes	Virginia
51.	Channing Ward	6-4/250	Aberdeen (MS) Aberdeen	Mississippi
53.	Leonard Williams	6-5/254	Daytona Beach (FL) Mainland	USC
56.	Jordan Jenkins	6-3/245	Hamilton (GA) Harris County	Georgia
61.	Arik Armstead	6-8/280	Elk Grove (CA) Pleasant Grove	Oregon
65.	Javonte Magee	6-5/262	San Antonio (TX) Sam Houston	Baylor
92.	Tyriq McCord	6-3/222	Tampa (FL) Jefferson	Miami (FL)
95.	Se'von Pittman	6-5/245	Canton (OH) McKinley	Ohio State
97.	Alex Balducci	6-4/262	Portland (OR) Central Catholic	Oregon
99.	Ifeadi Odenigbo	6-4/210	Centerville (OH) Centerville	Northwestern

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

3.	Mario Edwards	6-4/275	Denton (TX) Ryan	Florida State
7.	Eddie Goldman	6-4/307	Washington (DC) Friendship Collegiate Academy	Florida State
14.	Ondre Pipkins	6-3/325	Kansas City (MO) Park Hill	Michigan
21.	Ellis McCarthy	6-5/311	Monrovia (CA) Monrovia	UCLA
26.	Malcom Brown	6-2/280	Brenham (TX) Brenham	Texas
64.	Tommy Schutt	6-2/301	Glen Ellyn (IL) Glenbard West	Ohio State
72.	Jonathan Taylor	6-4/315	Millen (GA) Jenkins County	Georgia

LINEBACKERS

40.	Jabari Ruffin	6-4/230	Downey (CA) Downey	USC
43.	Reggie Ragland	6-4/245	Madison (AL) Bob Jones	Alabama
47.	Ukeme Eligwe	6-3/210	Stone Mountain (GA) Stone Mountain	Florida State
73.	Vince Biegel	6-3/210	Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Wisc Rapids Lincoln	Wisconsin
77.	Noor Davis	6-4/233	Leesburg (FL) Leesburg	Stanford
89.	Nick Dawson	6-3/228	Charlotte (NC) Phillip O Berry Acad Of Tech	Louisville
91.	Kwontie Moore	6-2/243	Norfolk (VA) Norfolk Christian School	Virginia
94.	Raphael Kirby	6-0/208	Stone Mountain (GA) Stephenson	Miami (FL)
98.	Ryan Anderson	6-3/250	Daphne (AL) Daphne	Alabama

DEFENSIVE BACKS

4.	Shaq Thompson	6-2/210	Sacramento (CA) Grant	Washington
13.	Tracy Howard	5-11/175	Miramar (FL) Miramar	Miami (FL)
17.	Landon Collins	5-11/199	Geismar (LA) Dutchtown	Alabama
57.	Alex Carter	6-0/193	Ashburn (VA) Briar Woods	Stanford
60.	Travis Blanks	6-1/195	Tallahassee (FL) North Florida Christian	Clemson
68.	Ronald Darby	5-11/172	Oxon Hill (MD) Potomac	Florida State
69.	DeVante Harris	5-11/160	Mesquite (TX) Horn	Texas A&M
70.	Marcus Maye	6-1/195	Melbourne (FL) Holy Trinity	Florida
76.	Tee Shepard	6-1/180	Fresno (CA) Washington Union	Notre Dame
80.	Brian Poole	5-11/187	Bradenton (FL) Southeast	Florida
82.	Kevon Seymour	6-0/180	Pasadena (CA) Muir	USC
83.	Deon Bush	6-1/185	Miami (FL) Columbus	Miami (FL)
85.	Yuri Wright	6-2/180	Ramsey (NJ) Don Bosco Prep	Colorado
86.	LaDarrell McNeil	6-1/190	Dallas (TX) Wilmer-Hutchins	Tennessee
88.	Geno Smith	5-11/180	Atlanta (GA) St Pius X School	Alabama

ATHLETES

24.	Eddie Williams	6-4/204	Panama City (FL) Arnold	Alabama
31.	Josh Harvey-Clemons	6-5/208	Valdosta (GA) Lowndes	Georgia
37.	Devin Fuller	6-0/185	Old Tappan (NJ) Old Tappan	UCLA
39.	Kendall Sanders	6-1/175	Athens (TX) Athens	Texas
71.	D.J. Foster	5-11/190	Scottsdale (AZ) Saguaro	Arizona State
79.	Cyrus Jones	5-11/183	Baltimore (MD) Gilman School	Alabama
84.	Joel Caleb	6-2/201	Midlothian (VA) Clover Hill	Virginia Tech

100 FOR 2013

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

QUARTERBACKS

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School
8.	Max Browne	6-5/202	Sammamish, WA/Skyline
11.	Tyrone Swoopes	6-5/220	Whitewright, TX/Whitewright
16.	Shane Morris	6-3/183	Warren, MI/De La Salle
47.	Ryan Burns	6-4/218	Ashburn, VA/Stone Bridge
71.	Troy Williams	6-0/173	Harbor City, CA/Narbonne
80.	Johnathon McCrary	6-3/180	Ellenwood, GA/Cedar Grove

RUNNING BACKS

9.	Thomas Tyner	6-0/200	Beaverton, OR/Aloha
18.	Ty Isaac	6-3/215	Joliet, IL/Joliet Catholic
20.	Altee Tenpenny	5-11/200	North Little Rock, AR/North Little Rock
23.	Greg Bryant	5-11/200	Delray Beach, FL/American Heritage School
48.	Justin Davis	6-1/195	Stockton, CA/Lincoln
64.	Derrick Green	6-0/215	Richmond, VA/Hermitage
74.	Kailo Moore	5-10/180	Rosedale, MS/West Bolivar
87.	Taquan Mizzell	5-10/180	Virginia Beach, VA/Bayside
90.	Ryan Green	5-10/195	State Petersburg, FL/Catholic

WIDE RECEIVERS

13.	Ricky Seals-Jones	6-5/220	Sealy, TX/Sealy
19.	Derrick Griffin	6-6/215	Rosenberg, TX/Terry
24.	Marquez North	6-3/205	Charlotte, NC/Mallard Creek
26.	Robert Foster	6-3/170	Monaca, PA/Central Valley
31.	Laquon Treadwell	6-3/183	Crete, IL/Crete Monee
45.	Stacy Coley	6-1/175	Oakland Park, FL/Northeast
52.	Steven Mitchell	5-11/170	Mission Hills, CA/Bishop Alemany
59.	Ahmad Fulwood	6-4/197	Jacksonville, FL/Bishop Kenny
61.	Jake Oliver	6-4/194	Dallas, TX/Jesuit
97.	Demarcus Robinson	6-2/200	Fort Valley, GA/Peach County

TIGHT ENDS

22.	Adam Breneman	6-5/220	Camp Hill, PA/Cedar Cliff
35.	O.J. Howard	6-6/226	Autauga, AL/Autauga Academy
55.	DeSean Smith	6-4/222	Lake Charles, LA/Barbe
96.	Jake Butt	6-6/230	Pickerington, OH/Pickerington North

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

3.	Laremy Tunsil	6-6/275	Lake City, FL/Columbia
25.	Kent Perkins	6-5/300	Dallas, TX/Lake Highlands
27.	Ethan Pocic	6-7/285	Lemont, IL/Lemont
46.	Chris Fox	6-6/297	Parker, CO/Ponderosa
49.	Steve Elmer	6-6/305	Midland, MI/Midland
51.	Jake Raulerson	6-4/250	Celina, TX/Celina
54.	Patrick Kugler	6-5/280	Wexford, PA/North Allegheny
57.	Austin Golson	6-4/277	Prattville, AL/Prattville
60.	Kyle Bosch	6-5/285	Wheaton, IL/State Francis
67.	Reeve Koehler	6-3/280	Honolulu, HI/State Louis
83.	Evan Lisle	6-6/265	Centerville, OH/Centerville
92.	Darius James	6-5/319	Killeen, TX/Harker Heights
98.	Aaron Cochran	6-6/320	Atwater, CA/Buhach

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1.	Robert Nkemdiche	6-5/260	Loganville, GA/Grayson
6.	Kenny Bigelow	6-3/285	Elkton, MD/Eastern Christian Academy
14.	Joey Bosa	6-5/260	Fort Lauderdale, FL/St. Thomas Aquinas
21.	Eddie Vanderdoes	6-4/285	Placer, CA/Placer
42.	Dee Liner	6-2/274	Muscle Shoals, AL/Muscle Shoals
50.	Garrett Sickels	6-4/240	Little Silver, NJ/Red Bank Regional
73.	Isaac Rochell	6-5/260	McDonough, GA/Eagle's Landing Christian
76.	Jordan Sherit	6-4/245	Tampa, FL/Hillsborough
81.	Kylie Fitts	6-4/260	Redlands, CA/East Valley
91.	Carl Lawson	6-2/253	Alpharetta, GA/Milton
93.	Joe Mathis	6-4/254	Upland, CA/Upland
99.	D.J. Ward	6-4/240	Lawton, OK/Lawton
100.	Jonathan Allen	6-3/225	Ashburn, VA/Stone Bridge

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

33.	Montravius Adams	6-3/290	Vienna, GA/Dooly County
43.	Henry Poggi	6-3/250	Baltimore, MD/Gilman School
63.	Isaiah Golden	6-2/295	Carthage, TX/Carthage
69.	A'Shawn Robinson	6-4/302	Fort Worth, TX/Arlington Heights
70.	Michael Hill	6-3/315	Pendleton, SC/Pendleton
78.	Greg Webb	6-2/290	Sicklerville, NJ/Timber Creek
82.	Caleb Brantley	6-3/285	Crescent City, FL/Crescent City
85.	Jaynard Bostwick	6-4/291	Port State Lucie, FL/St. Lucie West Centennial
89.	Justin Manning	6-3/275	Dallas, TX/Kimball

LINEBACKERS

2.	Reuben Foster	6-2/228	Auburn, AL/Auburn
12.	Matthew Thomas	6-3/201	Miami, FL/Booker T. Washington
15.	E.J. Levenberry Jr.	6-3/226	Woodbridge, VA/C. D. Hylton
17.	Michael Hutchings	6-2/210	Concord, CA/De La Salle
34.	Jaylon Smith	6-3/202	Fort Wayne, IN/Bishop Luers
36.	Trey Johnson	6-1/220	Lawrenceville, GA/Central Gwinnett
37.	Dorian O'Daniel	6-1/205	Olney, MD/Our Lady Of Good Counsel
40.	Chans Cox	6-3/220	Lakeside, AZ/Blue Ridge
44.	Mike McCray	6-4/230	Trotwood, OH/Trotwood-Madison
53.	Daniel McMillian	6-3/220	Jacksonville, FL/First Coast
62.	Peter Kalambayi	6-3/229	Matthews, NC/Butler
68.	Doug Randolph	6-3/215	Richmond, VA/Woodberry Forest School
88.	Johnny O'Neal	6-2/225	Dublin, GA/West Laurens
95.	Larenz Bryant	6-1/203	Charlotte, NC/Vance

DEFENSIVE BACKS

4.	Kendall Fuller	6-0/185	Olney, MD/Our Lady Of Good Counsel
5.	Su'a Cravens	6-1/205	Murrieta, CA/Vista Murrieta
7.	Cameron Burrows	6-1/195	Trotwood, OH/Trotwood-Madison
10.	Vernon Hargreaves III	5-10/177	Tampa, FL/Wharton
28.	Eli Woodard	6-1/185	Voorhees, NJ/Eastern
30.	Max Redfield	6-2/195	Mission Viejo, CA/Mission Viejo
32.	Leon McQuay III	6-2/177	Seffner, FL/Armwood
38.	Antonio Conner	6-2/192	Batesville, MS/South Panola
39.	Marcell Harris	6-2/205	Orlando, FL/Dr. Phillips
56.	Mackensie Alexander	5-11/175	Immokalee, FL/Immokalee
58.	Dashon Hunt	5-10/175	Westlake Village, CA/Westlake
65.	Tray Matthews	6-1/190	Newnan, GA/Newnan
72.	Holland Fisher	6-2/205	Midlothian, VA/Manchester
77.	Dymonte Thomas	6-1/175	Alliance, OH/Marlington
79.	Will Likely	5-7/171	Belle Glade, FL/Glades Central
84.	Priest Willis	6-2/200	Tempe, AZ/Marcos De Niza
86.	Kameron Miles	6-2/200	Mesquite, TX/West Mesquite
94.	Nick Washington	6-0/180	Jacksonville, FL/Trinity Christian

ATHLETES

29.	Derrick Henry	6-3/241	Yulee, FL/Yulee
41.	Jalin Marshall	6-0/190	Middletown, OH/Middletown
66.	John Diarse	6-0/202	Monroe, LA/Neville
75.	ArDarius Stewart	6-3/190	Fultondale, AL/Fultondale

TOP 10 SCHOOLS BY POSITION

Quarterback

1. Florida State
2. Washington
3. Purdue
4. Notre Dame
5. Oregon
6. Cal
7. Southern Miss
8. BYU
9. Auburn
9. Cincinnati

Running back

1. Georgia
2. Alabama
3. Virginia Tech
4. Miami
5. Michigan
6. Ole Miss
7. Texas
8. Texas A&M
9. Ohio State
10. Cincinnati

Wide Receiver

1. Oklahoma
2. Tennessee
3. Miami
4. Maryland
5. Cal
6. USC
7. Texas Tech
8. UCLA
9. Texas A&M
10. South Carolina

Tight End

1. Florida
2. Oregon
3. Auburn
4. Oklahoma
5. Oregon State
5. TCU
7. USC
7. USF
9. Oklahoma State
10. Michigan

Offensive Line

1. Stanford
2. Auburn
3. USC
4. Michigan
5. Texas
6. Oregon State
7. Oklahoma
8. Ohio State
9. Florida
10. Rutgers

Defensive Tackle

1. Florida State
2. Texas
3. Alabama
4. Michigan
5. Florida
6. Clemson
7. UCLA
8. Mississippi State
8. Tennessee
10. Notre Dame

Defensive End

1. Florida
2. Ohio State
3. Oregon
4. Stanford
5. Georgia
6. Miami
7. Arkansas
8. Virginia
9. Mississippi State
9. USC

Linebacker

1. Alabama
2. Texas
3. LSU
4. Michigan
4. Virginia Tech
6. Ohio State
7. Louisville
8. Nebraska
9. USC
10. Florida State

Defensive Back

1. Miami
2. Alabama
3. Washington
4. Florida
5. Ohio State
6. Florida State
7. South Carolina
8. Notre Dame
9. USC
10. Virginia Tech

Athlete

1. Texas
2. Alabama
3. Georgia
4. UCLA
5. Georgia Tech
5. Mississippi State
7. Washington
8. Virginia Tech
9. Clemson
10. Virginia

Kicker

1. Florida State
1. Purdue
3. Duke
4. Alabama
4. Clemson
6. Georgia
6. TCU
8. Washington
9. South Carolina

PAC-12 RECRUITING

By Adam Gorney
Rivals.com

Stanford

Overview: It was a big finish for Stanford as the Cardinal landed five-star offensive tackles **Kyle Murphy** and **Andrus Peat** along with five-star defensive end **Aziz Shittu** all on National Signing Day. Stanford also flipped three-star recruits **Michael Rector** and **Zach Hoffpauir** and did an outstanding job keeping players that had committed early to stay in the class. Four-star offensive lineman **Joshua Garnett** was the first player outside the five-stars, so he's also a fantastic player. Linebacker **Noor Davis** and running back **Barry Sanders Jr.**, both four-star standouts, could be special players in the coming years.

Headliner: Murphy is a fantastic offensive tackle who has the size and ability to make an immediate impact in the Pac-12. The five-star proved his ability against the top competition at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, where he dominated quality defensive linemen all week.

Sleeper: Three-star wide receiver **Conner Crane** had an impressive offer list and put up tremendous numbers throughout his high school career, but never really had a high ranking. In his senior year at Denton (Texas) Guyer, Crane finished with 996 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns. He could catch a lot of passes throughout his career.

Bottom line: Coach David Shaw and his staff did a fantastic job finishing strong by landing Murphy, Peat, Shittu and others on or near signing day. With so many fantastic offensive linemen in the class, including Garnett, **Graham Shuler**, **Brandon Fanaika** and others, Stanford has a foundation for a fantastic team for many more years.

Southern California

Overview: There is no doubt USC missed some showstoppers on signing day, but the Trojans still landed an outstanding class filled with talented prospects who should keep USC atop the Pac-12 during their careers. Because of NCAA sanctions, USC could only sign 15 players and no scholarships were wasted. Five-star wide receiver **Nelson Agholor** is special and offensive linemen **Zach Banner** and **Jordan Simmons** are two of the biggest prospects in the entire class. Defensive back **Gerald Bowman** and defensive end **Morgan Breslin**, both junior college transfers, could be outstanding soon for the Trojans.

Headliner: Banner still needs work — he is still raw — but the Lakewood (Wash.) Lakes offensive tackle is 6-9, 310 pounds, comes from a football pedigree (his father is Lincoln Kennedy) and hardly anyone works harder than him. Put in the right position, with time to develop, Banner could be a dominant left tackle and already has the size to possibly have a future in the NFL.

Sleeper: It is difficult to find an undiscovered talent at a program that's in the spotlight like USC, but **Devian Shelton** received his offer from the Trojans close to signing day and almost signed with Oregon State. The Inglewood, Calif., recruit is a high-flying, athletic defensive back who hits hard. Once he adds more weight, Shelton will compete for early playing time.

Bottom line: The recruiting class is smaller at USC this recruiting cycle, but that doesn't mean it lacks talent. Agholor should be a nice addition on a loaded receiving corps. Simmons and Banner will develop over the years to be instrumental on the offensive line. USC loaded up on defense, too, with Bowman, **Kevon Seymour** and Shelton as defensive backs and a bunch of top-notch defensive ends and linebackers.

UCLA

Overview: Jim Mora said he thought he knew what recruiting was about but really learned some valuable lessons from the outstanding group of assistant coaches he assembled. For the first time out, Mora did a phenomenal job. **Ellis McCarthy** is the key to this class, but flipping wide receiver **Jordan Payton** from Washington and **Jeremy Castro** from Oregon, getting **Devin Fuller** from New Jersey, keeping **Aaron Porter** from flipping to Oregon and landing **Ishmael Adams**, **Lacy Westbrook**, **Javon Williams** and **Marcus Rios** proves the Bruins are on the right track again.

Headliner: There is no doubt about the top player in this class — it is five-star defensive tackle McCarthy from Monrovia, Calif. The 6-5, 295-pound prospect is one of the biggest recruits in recent memory and could be an immediate impact player in the Pac-12. He had been committed to Cal and USC pushed him, but McCarthy picked the Bruins.

Sleeper: **T.J. Millweard** was a quarterback from the state of Texas, but he was pretty much overlooked by all the in-state schools. He had bounced around to different schools, but signed with the Bruins and it could be a nice pickup down the road. In his senior season, Millweard threw for 2,374 yards and 22 touchdowns. He has an outstanding arm.

Bottom line: Mora and his coaching staff did an outstanding job in a tough situation, coming in late and still being able to reinvigorate the program. McCarthy is by far the headliner, but UCLA did a great job landing Adams,

TOP 20 INCOMING PAC-12 RECRUITS

Rk.	Player	Ht./Wt.	Pos.	Hometown/School	College
1.	Shaq Thompson	6-2/210	S	Sacramento (Calif.) Grant	Washington
2.	Zach Banner	6-9/310	OT	Lakewood (Wash.) Lakes	USC
3.	Nelson Agholor	6-2/180	WR	Tampa (Fla.) Berkeley Prep	USC
4.	Kyle Murphy	6-7/275	OT	San Clemente (Calif.) High	Stanford
5.	Ellis McCarthy	6-5/295	DT	Monrovia (Calif.) High	UCLA
6.	Aziz Shittu	6-3/275	DE	Atwater (Calif.) Buhach	Stanford
7.	Jordan Simmons	6-5/333	OG	Encino (Calif.) Crespi	USC
8.	Andrus Peat	6-7/305	OT	Tempe (Ariz.) Corona Del Sol	Stanford
9.	Joshua Garnett	6-5/295	OG	Puyallup (Wash.) High	Stanford
10.	Cyler Miles	6-4/220	QB	Denver (Colo.) Mullen	Washington
11.	Devin Fuller	6-0/185	ATH	Old Tappan (N.J.) High	UCLA
12.	Jabari Ruffin	6-4/230	LB	Downey (Calif.) High	USC
13.	Zach Kline	6-2/195	QB	Danville (Calif.) San Ramon Valley	California
14.	Max Tuerk	6-6/294	OT	Santa Margarita (Calif.) High	USC
15.	Isaac Seumalo	6-3/280	OG	Corvallis (Ore.) High	Oregon State
16.	Leonard Williams	6-5/254	DE	Daytona Beach (Fla.) Mainland	USC
17.	Alex Carter	6-0/193	S	Ashburn (Va.) Briar Woods	Stanford
18.	Arik Armstead	6-8/300	DE	Elk Grove (Calif.) Pleasant Grove	Oregon
19.	Gerald Bowman	6-1/210	S	Woodland Hills (Calif.) Pierce C.C.	USC
20.	D.J. Foster	6-0/190	ATH	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro	Arizona State

Castro, Fuller, Payton, Porter, Rios and many others. The Bruins also did a nice job signing some undervalued prospects who could become stars over the years.

Oregon

Overview: Oregon didn't have the fireworks like last recruiting cycle when it flipped De'Anthony Thomas and landed five-star Colt Lyerla late in the process, but this is a strong and solid class for the Ducks. **Arik Armstead** leads the way, but there are plenty of other four-star recruits to like in wide receivers **Dwayne Stanford** and **Bralon Addison** (who flipped from Texas A&M), linebacker **Brett Bafaro**, defensive ends **Alex Balducci** and **DeForest Buckner**, tight ends **Evan Baylis** and **Pharaoh Brown**, quarterback **Jake Rodrigues** and running back **Byron Marshall**.

Headliner: Auburn, Notre Dame, Cal, Washington and others were pursuing Armstead, but Oregon won out for the four-star defensive end. Armstead is a phenomenal athlete and an even better offensive tackle who plans to play basketball for the Ducks as well.

Sleeper: Oregon coach Chip Kelly said he believes if **Cody Carriger** was from California he would be one of the top players in the country. That might be a stretch, but the 6-6 defensive end from Butte, Montana is a phenomenal athlete who plays with a lot of intensity.

Bottom line: The Ducks compiled a strong class full of prospects who can contribute even if they didn't land the blockbusters like they did last recruiting cycle with Thomas and Lyerla late in the recruiting process. Armstead could be a special player in time and Oregon loaded up at other defensive positions with Balducci and Buckner at defensive end and Bafaro at linebacker.

Washington

Overview: Washington fans should be excited about **Shaq Thompson** and getting four-star quarterbacks **Cyler Miles** and **Jeff Lindquist**, especially because Miles was seriously considering a flip to USC on signing day. Four-star **Jaydon Mickens** has outstanding speed, and the Huskies did a good job on Signing Day of landing four-star cornerback **Brandon Beaver** and flipping four-star defensive end **Pio Vatuvei** from USC. There are a bunch of three-stars in the class that are impressive, including **Kendyl Taylor** and **Jake Eldrenkamp**.

Headliner: Landing five-star safety Thompson was instrumental in Washington's recruiting class. The Sacramento (Calif.) Grant recruit is the best safety in the country, fierce, hard-hitting and physically developed, so he could play early on. Flipping him from Cal late was crucial to the Huskies' class.

Sleeper: Cornerback **Cleveland Wallace** made news on signing day when he flipped from Oregon State to Washington and even before when USC pursued him in the final weeks, but he still seems a little undervalued. Wallace is a big-time playmaker and should compete for early playing time for the Huskies.

Bottom line: Thompson is the marquee player in this class and the five-star safety is someone who can immediately get on the field as a freshman. He is fantastic and proved that at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Miles almost switched at the last minute to USC, but it was huge for Washington that he and Lindquist stayed in the class. There might be a quarterback controversy in the coming years, because there aren't enough snaps for both, but it could be a good problem to have.

California

Overview: For all the talk about players leaving Cal's class after assistant coaches Tosh Lupoi and Eric Kiesau left for Washington, the Golden Bears still compiled a Top 25 class. This group could have been much better if Shaq Thompson and Ellis McCarthy along with Jordan Payton stayed in the fold, but it's still strong. **Bryce Treggs** leads the group, but quarterback **Zach Kline**, athlete **Cedric Dozier**, wide receivers **Kenny Lawler** and **Darius Powe** and offensive tackle **Freddie Tagaloa** are all outstanding players.

Headliner: Treggs had a difficult decision in the hours leading up to National Signing Day: Stick with Cal or flip to USC (which offered the day before) or to UCLA. He stuck with the Golden Bears, and it's huge for their offense because Treggs is a playmaker, has deceptive speed and rarely drops a pass.

Sleeper: Athlete **Damariay Drew** emerged on the scene late in the recruiting process, and after his commitment to Cal in early January, other Pac-12 programs such as Oregon and Washington pursued him. The Livermore, Calif., prospect can play a variety of positions and possesses outstanding speed.

Bottom line: With assistant coaches leaving, prospects switched late in the recruiting process and many other could have jumped ship as well, but things ended up not being as bad as they could have been. Treggs stuck with the Golden Bears even though USC came in late, Kline is a special quarterback and the late addition of four-star wide receiver Kenny Lawler was a big pick-up. Things could have turned really bad for Cal, but they didn't, and the Golden Bears should be just fine.

Utah

Overview: Utah did a solid job across the board. In addition to keeping **Jeremiah Poutasi**, the Utes landed junior college four-star prospects **Kelvin York** and **Visesio Salt;** four-star defensive back **Justin Thomas**; and signed **Chase Hansen**, one of the top players in the state. On signing day, the Utes got junior college lineman **Carlos Lozano**, defensive back **Alphonso Marsh** and linebacker **Moana Ofahengaue**. All in all, Utah should be proud of its class.

Headliner: In the final days before National Signing Day, four-star offensive lineman Poutasi was strongly considering Oregon, but the Las Vegas (Nev.) Desert Pines prospect stuck with the Utes. Good for them. Poutasi is a humongous, strong lineman who will be able to open up holes and protect the quarterback for many years.

Sleeper: One player who slipped under the radar in Southern California and probably didn't get the credit he deserves is three-star wide receiver **Delshawn McClellon** from Cerritos (Calif.) Gahr. McClellon caught 66 passes for 1,049 yards and 10 touchdowns in his senior season.

Bottom line: Utah landed the third- and fourth-best players in the state in Hansen and Ofahengaue, but lost out on the top two players (Brandon Fanaika to Stanford and Troy Hinds to BYU). Poutasi was being courted by Stanford late in the recruiting process, but he stuck with his original pledge to the Utes and it was important. The four-star recruit is big and talented enough to be an immediate contributor on Utah's offensive line. There is a good chance Hansen will put up big numbers for years in the Pac-12.

Colorado

Overview: Coach Jon Embree and his assistants are trying to turn things around at Colorado, and this recruiting class has some pieces that could be part of that revival. **Yuri Wright** and **Kenneth Crawley** are great cornerbacks and could be immediate contributors. Defensive ends **Kisima Jagne** and **Samson Kafovalu**, defensive tackle **Justin Solis** and athlete **Christian Powell** are all talented players. Powell is a big recruit who could play on either side of the ball.

Headliner: Wright, a four-star cornerback, is a phenomenal player who could be a big-time steal for the Buffaloes. The U.S. Army All-American had offers from across the country and is a ball-hawk and an athletic, tough corner. Wright and fellow four-star cornerback Crawley could be a formidable duo.

Sleeper: Running back **Donta Abron** is a sneaky, tough, little prospect who put up big numbers against tough competition in Southern California. The Upland, Calif., recruit finished with 1,754 rushing yards and 33 touchdowns in his senior season and averaged almost seven yards per carry.

Bottom line: The Buffaloes closed strong with big commitments from Wright and Crawley, both four-star defensive backs from the East Coast, in late January. Jagne is raw and athletic, but could become a special player as his career continues. Embree and his staff are aggressive and hard-nosed recruiters who are trying to turn around a program in a tough spot. This class could be a good start in that direction.

Arizona State

Overview: Arizona State loaded up with nine junior college prospects and four recruits from the same powerhouse program in Southern California — Long Beach Poly. Coach Todd Graham had a tough job coming into this situation late, but did an admirable job closing on some prospects. If **D.J. Foster** had left the state for either USC or Cal, this class would not be nearly as good. Getting a playmaker like that was crucial moving forward and he could see some early playing time at running back.

Headliner: Foster was the home run Graham needed in this recruiting class. The Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro prospect spurned USC and Cal to stay home and play for the Sun Devils, and he should have the opportunity to play immediately. In his senior season, Foster rushed for 3,058 yards and 54 touchdowns.

Sleeper: There has been much talk about the four Long Beach (Calif.) Poly players who signed with Arizona State, but three-star linebacker **Salamo Fiso** doesn't get his due. Fiso is an active, hard-hitting prospect who gets to the ball and makes plays. He had 127 tackles in his senior season

Bottom line: Foster piled up tremendous statistics in his senior season and was torn between USC and Arizona State up until the day in late January when he picked the Sun Devils. The four-star running back developed a strong relationship with Graham and that was a big key in his recruitment. Arizona State hung onto the Long Beach (Calif.) Poly stars and that could pay off big time in the future. Landing junior college four-star running back **Marion Grice** should not be overlooked. He could have an immediate impact as well.

Oregon State

Overview: From top to bottom, Oregon State's recruiting class is no-nonsense. Four-stars **Isaac Seumalo** and tight end **Caleb Smith** lead the group, but there is a lot of three-star depth with **Tyler Hasty**, offensive linemen **Gavin Andrews**, **Grant Bays**, **Stanley Hasiak**, **Garrett Weinreich** and others. Wide receiver **Malik Gilmore** and running back **Chris Brown** are also game-breakers. Junior college linebacker **Cade Cowdin** could make an instant impact.

Headliner: Four-star offensive guard Seumalo considered USC, but decided to stick with Oregon State, where his father, Joe, is defensive line coach. That is hugely important for Oregon State because Seumalo is one of only two four-stars in the class, and he's a tremendous player.

Sleeper: He is a three-star prospect, but Hasty has hinted time and again that he could be even higher in the rankings. Hasty absolutely dominated against Westlake Village (Calif.) Oaks Christian early in the year and led his Bellevue, Wash., team to an undefeated season. Hasty is aggressive, tough and plays with a mean streak and should be an outstanding defensive back in the Pac-12.

Bottom line: There was never really any serious doubt about Seumalo in this class because of his connections in Corvallis, but he emerged through the recruiting process and could have played at any Pac-12 school. Keeping him could mean Oregon State has a stable offensive lineman for the next few years. It was also important for the Beavers to get Smith because Arkansas and Washington were pursuing him. Smith really emerged in his senior season and he has great size to be a big target at tight end.

Arizona

Overview: First-year coach Rich Rodriguez and his staff came to Tucson and didn't steal away any major prospects but did a fine job stabilizing things. They kept defensive end **Kyle Kelley** and four-star **Zach Hemmila**, plus the Wildcats added quarterback **Javelle Allen** and a few other quality prospects looking forward. Once the new staff gets settled in and their people in place, the 2013 and 2014 recruiting classes should be much better. Athlete **Bryan Harper** and defensive end **Dwight Melvin** could be steals.

Headliner: Four-star defensive end Kelley could have flipped to some prestigious programs after the coaching switch, but the Irvine (Calif.) Woodbridge prospect decided to stick — and that's big for the Wildcats. Kelley is undersized, but he'll play that hybrid defensive end/linebacker position and thrive there.

Sleeper: Rodriguez needed a dual-threat quarterback, and he got one in Allen. He could be a big-time sleeper. Allen threw for 2,321 yards with 30 touchdowns and five interceptions and also rushed for 1,497 yards and 22 scores. How he only had a Florida Atlantic offer is amazing.

Bottom line: Rodriguez did not come to Tucson and blow the Pac-12 out of the water with his first recruiting class, but a successful first season could pay huge dividends. One of Rodriguez's first priorities was finding a quarterback to fit his system, and he might have found him in Allen. Keeping Kelley, a stat machine, and Hemmila, one of Arizona's top prospects, in the class, was also important. To really get things firing on all cylinders in recruiting, Rodriguez is going to have to win this season.

Washington State

Overview: Washington State finished on the bottom of the Pac-12 rankings, but this class is much stronger than recent groups. Wide receiver **Gabriel Marks**, linebacker **Jeremiah Allison**, wide receiver **Alex Jackson**, all-purpose back **Robert Lewis**, defensive end **Kache Palacio** and linebacker **Khalil Pettway** all had great senior seasons in Southern California. There are impressive players across the board here that could help Washington State become a player in the Pac-12 again.

Headliner: There is no question that Marks is one of the best wide receivers in California. He won the wide receiver MVP award at the Los Angeles NIKE Camp as a sophomore, runs great routes and catches everything. Plus, Marks plays with a nastiness where he feels he needs to prove himself at all times.

Sleeper: The player Washington State's coaches are raving about is defensive end **Destiny Vaeao** from American Samoa. The 6-3, 255-pound prospect has impressive film and could be a major steal in this recruiting class. He's an aggressive, tough guy who could also play tight end.

Bottom line: First-year coach Mike Leach has rejuvenated a stagnant program by recruiting Southern California really hard and going after top prospects who fit his system. Marks could become an immediate special player in the Pac-12, and Lewis didn't earn the nickname "Human Joystick" for nothing. With this recruiting class, the Cougars are back on track to become relevant again in the Pac-12. Leach is putting nice pieces together to have an explosive offense in Pullman.

TOP to BOTTOM

1. USC
2. Oregon
3. Stanford
4. Utah
5. Washington
6. UCLA
7. California
8. Washington State
9. Arizona
10. Arizona State
11. Oregon State
12. Colorado

Gary A. Vasquez-US PRESSWIRE

Free at last, Trojans ready to run to Rose Bowl ... or beyond

The U in USC this season might stand more accurately for Unchained. Or perhaps Unstoppable.

The Trojans are finally free from a two-year postseason ban that was the NCAA's penalty for Reggie Bush-related crimes.

USC appears none the worse for the two-year hiatus, perfectly positioned as it comes off the ban to contend not only for the Pac-12 title — where we predict they will face Oregon in the conference championship game — but national honors, as well.

USC's hopes for this season rose greatly thanks to quarterback Matt Barkley's surprising decision to return for his senior season. Barkley bypassed the chance to be a high first-round pick for an opportunity to lead USC to Pasadena, or beyond.

A day before Barkley decided to return, safety T.J. McDonald — also a possible first-rounder — announced he would come back for another season.

The two are leaders of a young USC team that might have been the best in the conference by the end of 2011, winning a thriller in Eugene to knock Oregon out of the national title race, and capping the season with a 50-0 throttling of rival UCLA (which was the official Pac-12 South champion with the Trojans banned from the postseason).

All that talent makes USC the unquestioned favorite in the Pac-12 South, where the only team that seems positioned to be a serious threat is Utah, which went 8-5 last season and brings back its best offensive player (running back John White IV) and defensive player (Star Lotulelei).

Also back for Utah is quarterback Jordan Wynn, who was lost for the season in the first half of the Utes' first Pac-12 game last season. Utah hosts USC on Oct. 4, a Thursday night game that looms as a de facto Pac-12 South title game.

The rest of the South consists of teams largely starting over with big-name coaches — UCLA (Jim Mora), Arizona (Rich Rodriguez) and Arizona State (Todd Graham). While they are hoping for quick turnarounds, all appear a year or two away from truly contending.

The Pac-12 North appears to again be the province of Oregon, which has won the past two conference titles, each time thanks largely to winning regular-

PAC-12 Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
NORTH			
1. Oregon	Speed kills, and Ducks have it everywhere, led by electrifying RB De'Anthony Thomas.	This is still a lot to lose from a backfield: QB Darron Thomas, RB LaMichael James.	Oregon is at that reload-rather-than-rebuild stage and should be a national player again.
2. Stanford	Winning attitude remains; superb linebackers lead what could be an improved defense.	No way Andrew Luck won't be missed greatly, and O-line also took significant hits.	Hard to fathom Cardinal won't drop a little. But if a QB emerges, it might not be far.
3. Washington	QB Keith Price returns to lead a solid offense, and the defense can't be worse.	Offensive playmakers must emerge, and linebackers remain a real question.	Huskies should again get to a bowl, but they look a year away from really contending.
4. California	Defense could be among best in the league; WR Keenan Allen among best in nation.	Bears must shed label of underachievers; QB Zach Maynard remains work in progress.	Heat might only get hotter on Jeff Tedford as Bears appear again to be about a seven-win team.
5. Washington St.	Hiring of Mike Leach injected much-needed enthusiasm; QB Jeff Tuel is healthy again.	Lines on each side of the ball remain questionable. Depth everywhere still an issue.	Leach and Tuel might be enough to get Cougs to a bowl game for first time since 2003.
6. Oregon State	Lots of youth thrown into the fire last year should be ready for the tests this year.	Offensive line a huge question, and offensive playmakers need to emerge.	Beavers could be better and still fall behind the rest of a competitive division.
SOUTH			
1. USC	Happy days are here again. Young-but-veteran squad has been building toward this moment.	Scholarship reductions mean there are depth issues at several spots, including RB.	Return of Matt Barkley made Trojans instant Pac-12, national title, favorites.
2. Utah	QB Jordan Wynn is healthy; DT Star Lotulelei; RB John White among best in conference.	Passing game needs improvement; offensive line has some holes to fill.	Senior-laden team looms as the biggest threat to USC in the South.
3. UCLA	New coach Jim Mora is injecting life into what is a talented, if young, roster.	Who is the quarterback? Offensive line is a huge question; attitude must be reset.	The Bruins have talent to surprise, but it's hard to trust UCLA's quarterbacks.
4. Arizona	Rich Rodriguez knows how to get things done; QB Matt Scott is nice centerpiece.	Cats adjusting to new schemes on both sides; defense needs to find pass rushers.	Wildcats should have more direction, but growing pains are expected in first RichRod year.
5. Arizona State	New coach Todd Graham can build around good RBs, defensive back seven.	The quarterback spot remains unsettled; offensive line is inexperienced.	ASU could be better than this, but you can't expect much more than a .500 season.
6. Colorado	Give us long enough and we'll think of something.	Few proven players anywhere; star WR Paul Richardson suffered ACL tear in spring.	Buffs may be the only team in the conference for which a bowl would be a real surprise.

season showdowns with Stanford. The Cardinal is now beginning life without Andrew Luck, making the Ducks an even more prohibitive favorite to win the North.

Oregon has to replace quarterback Darron Thomas — whose decision to leave early for the NFL was, in its own way, as surprising as Barkley's to stay — as well as running back LaMichael James.

Oregon appears to have suitable replacements for Thomas, with Marcus Mariota and Bryan Bennett. And the Ducks have plenty of young talent elsewhere (such as sophomore running back De'Anthony Thomas), many of whom have received significant playing time thanks in part to Oregon's rapid pace and constant shuffling of personnel.

Stanford still has one of the best defenses in the conference and that punishing ground game. Washington and Cal each won seven games a year ago and are hoping to emerge as contenders. UW needs to fix a leaky defense, though, and Cal an erratic offense, before making that leap.

— Bob Condotta

Most Valuable Player

Matt Barkley QB, USC

Offensive Player of the Year

Robert Woods WR, USC

Defensive Player of the Year

Star Lotulelei DT, Utah

Newcomer of the Year

Marcus Mariota QB, Oregon

HONOR ROLL

Most accurate passer	Matt Barkley	USC
Strongest arm	Matt Barkley	USC
Best scrambler	Bryan Bennett	Oregon
Coolest in the clutch	Matt Barkley	USC
Toughest to bring down	Stepfan Taylor	Stanford
Best hands	Marquess Wilson	Washington State
Most dangerous deep threat	Robert Woods	USC
Best pass blocker	Cameron Fleming	Stanford
Best run blocker	Khaled Holmes	USC
Best cover corner	Jordan Poyer	Oregon State
Best pass rusher	Chase Thomas	Stanford
Special teams demon	De'Anthony Thomas	Oregon

Lindy's 2012 ALL-PAC-12 Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Matt Barkley	Sr.	USC
RB	John White IV	Sr.	Utah
RB	Stepfan Taylor	Sr.	Stanford
WR	Robert Woods	Jr.	USC
WR	Keenan Allen	Jr.	Cal
TE	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	So.	Washington
C	Khaled Holmes	Sr.	USC
OL	David Bakhtiari	Jr.	Colorado
OL	David Yankey	Jr.	Stanford
OL	Cameron Fleming	Jr.	Stanford
OL	John Fullington	Jr.	Washington State
AP	De'Anthony Thomas	So.	Oregon
PK	Andre Heidari	So.	USC

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Keith Price	Jr.	Washington
RB	Curtis McNeal	Sr.	USC
RB	Kenjon Barner	Sr.	Oregon
WR	Marquess Wilson	Jr.	Washington State
WR	Marqise Lee	So.	USC
TE	Zach Ertz	Sr.	Stanford
C	Kyle Quinn	Sr.	Arizona
OL	Marcus Martin	So.	USC
OL	Brian Schwenke	Sr.	Cal
OL	Carson York	Sr.	Oregon
OL	Xavier Su'a-Filo	So.	UCLA
AP	Jamal Miles	Sr.	Arizona State
PK	Coleman Petersen	Sr.	Stanford

OFFENSE - THIRD TEAM

QB	Jeff Tuel	Sr.	Washington State
RB	Jonathan Franklin	Sr.	UCLA
RB	Isi Sofele	Sr.	Cal
WR	Markus Wheaton	Sr.	Oregon State
WR	DeVonte Christopher	Sr.	Utah
TE	Joseph Fauria	Sr.	UCLA
C	Drew Schaefer	Sr.	Washington
OL	Aundrey Walker	So.	USC
OL	Brice Schwab	Sr.	Arizona State
OL	Michael Philipp	Jr.	Oregon State
OL	Matt Summers-Gavin	Sr.	Cal
AP	Kasen Williams	So.	Washington
PK	Jordan Williamson	Jr.	Stanford

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Dion Jordan	Sr.	Oregon
DL	Star Lotulelei	Sr.	Utah
DL	Wes Horton	Sr.	USC
DL	Ben Gardner	Sr.	Stanford
LB	Dion Bailey	So.	USC
LB	Chase Thomas	Sr.	Stanford
LB	Hayes Pullard	So.	USC
DB	John Boyett	Sr.	Oregon
DB	T.J. McDonald	Sr.	USC
DB	Jordan Poyer	Sr.	Oregon State
DB	Nickell Robey	Jr.	USC
P	Jackson Rice	Sr.	Oregon

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Travis Long	Sr.	Washington State
DL	Deandre Coleman	Jr.	Cal
DL	Devon Kennard	Sr.	USC
DL	Scott Crichton	So.	Oregon State
LB	Jon Major	Sr.	Colorado
LB	Michael Clay	Sr.	Oregon
LB	Shayne Skov	Sr.	Stanford
DB	Brian Blechen	Jr.	Utah
DB	Deone Bucannon	Jr.	Washington State
DB	Desmond Trufant	Sr.	Washington
DB	Terrance Mitchell	So.	Oregon
P	Jeff Locke	Sr.	UCLA

DEFENSE - THIRD TEAM

DL	Taylor Hart	Jr.	Oregon
DL	Datone Jones	Sr.	UCLA
DL	Dave Kruger	Sr.	Utah
DL	Josh Shirley	So.	Washington
LB	Eric Kendricks	So.	UCLA
LB	Brandon Magee	Sr.	Arizona State
LB	Trent Murphy	Sr.	Stanford
DB	Tevin McDonald	So.	UCLA
DB	Ryan Lacy	Sr.	Utah
DB	Tra'Mayne Bondurant	So.	Arizona
DB	Damante Horton	Jr.	Washington State
P	Kyle Dugandzic	Sr.	Arizona

THE **BIG** ONES

Sept. 1	
Washington State at BYU	Mike Leach kicks off WSU career against his alma mater.
Sept. 8	
Nebraska at UCLA	Jim Mora could take big early step in winning over faithful with a W.
Washington at LSU	Early test of whether UW is ready to be near the college elite.
Sept. 15	
Arizona State at Missouri	Devils won in overtime in Tempe last season.
USC at Stanford	Cardinal has won last-second thrillers in each of the past two years.
California at Ohio State	Bears get a chance to prove defense is worthy of national hype.
BYU at Utah	Cougars look for revenge for embarrassing loss to Utes in Provo last year.
Sept. 22	
Utah at Arizona State	Devils handled Utes easily last year in Salt Lake City.
California at USC	Troy has won eight straight against Bears, most by wide margins.
Sept. 27	
Stanford at Washington	Cardinal has outscored Washington 106-21 in the past two years.
Sept. 29	
Oregon vs. Washington State (Seattle, WA)	First Chip Kelly-Mike Leach matchup will be played in Seattle.
Oct. 4	
USC at Utah	Thursday night affair could decide Pac-12 South title.
Oct. 6	
Washington at Oregon	Ducks have won eight in a row in the series, all by 17 or more points.
Oct. 13	
USC at Washington	Steve Sarkisian 2-1 against his former team, 1-1 against pal Lane Kiffin.
Stanford at Notre Dame	Cardinal has won three in a row after having lost seven in a row.
Oct. 20	
Stanford at California	Will it still feel like The Big Game in October?
Nov. 2	
Washington at California	UW's pilfering of Cal assistants only ups ante in increasingly heated rivalry.
Nov. 3	
Oregon at USC	BCS title game berth could be on the line — visitor has won the last two.
Nov. 10	
Oregon at California	Ducks well remember the near-defeat in Berkeley in 2010.
Utah at Washington	UW's best game of 2011 might have been its 31-14 win in Utah.
Nov. 17	
USC at UCLA	Don't think Mora won't remind Bruins of 50-0 pasting of 2011.
Stanford at Oregon	Oregon only Pac-12 team to beat Stanford the last two seasons.
Nov. 23	
Arizona State at Arizona	Two new coaches get their introduction to Territorial Cup.
Washington at Washington State	Apple Cup gets a new feel, played on Friday after Thanksgiving.
Nov. 24	
Notre Dame at USC	Trojans have won nine of last 10, but ND won last meeting in LA in 2010.
Stanford at UCLA	No rivalry weekend: Weird way for both teams to end Pac-12 regular season.
Oregon at Oregon State	Ducks have won last four by an average of 19 points.
Nov. 30	
Pac-12 Championship Game	Will be played at site of the team with best conference record.

STEPFAN TAYLOR

Photo by Bob Stanton/Icon SMI

BOWL CONNECTIONS

PAC-12 Champion
BCS (national title game if ranked #1 or #2, otherwise Rose)

Pac-12 #2	Alamo vs. Big 12 #3
Pac-12 #3	Holiday vs. Big 12 #5
Pac-12 #4	Sun Bowl vs. ACC #4
Pac-12 #5	Maaco Bowl Las Vegas vs. MWC #1
Pac-12 #6	Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl vs. Navy (if bowl eligible)
Pac-12 #7	New Mexico Bowl vs. MWC #4/5

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Matt Barkley	QB	USC	Sr.	Nitpicking: Height, accuracy could be minor concerns.
2. Star Lotulelei	DT	Utah	Sr.	Who doesn't love a tough, 325-pounder in the middle?
3. Robert Woods	WR	USC	Jr.	Sure-handed and makes plays — also a great returner.
4. Keenan Allen	WR	Cal	Jr.	Stands 6-3 and makes people miss after the catch.
5. T.J. McDonald	S	USC	Sr.	Maybe the best safety prospect in the country.
6. Khaled Holmes	C	USC	Sr.	Could be first center taken in 2013 draft.
7. Dion Jordan	DE	Oregon	Sr.	Size (6-7) and speed off the edge will entice NFL.
8. Marquess Wilson	WR	WSU	Jr.	Numbers will only go up now with Leach as coach.
9. Desmond Trufant	CB	UW	Sr.	Has been inconsistent, but NFL will like his measurables.
10. Deandre Coleman	DT	Cal	Jr.	Intriguing talent could rise quickly with a big year.

AROUND THE PAC-12

Big Bucks = Strange Schedules

All that newfound TV money that begins pouring into the Pac-12 this year — eventually, as much as $20 million a year or so more per team than previously — didn't come without a price.

In addition to the conference championship game, the conference's new 12-year, roughly $3-billion TV deal with ESPN/ABC and Fox (which also includes the conference debuting its own network this fall) calls for eight games a year on Thursday and Friday nights.

That means each school will play an average of three of those non-Saturday games every two years.

To make all of that work, though, requires some inconveniences the schools previously would not have agreed to ... but let's say that number again more slowly: *As much as twenty million dollars more per year ... per team.*

Absorbing the biggest hits this year are Cal and Stanford, which will play their annual Big Game — a contest that comes with a lot of off-field hoopla — on Saturday, Oct. 20, instead of its usual spot at the end of the regular season.

Cal coach Jeff Tedford and Stanford coach David Shaw each said they understood the reason behind the move, while saying they aren't looking forward to playing each other in October.

"I don't particularly like it," Tedford said. "Playing Stanford in the middle of the season is going to feel really odd for our fans, I am sure. When you have traditions that go toward the end of the year, everybody kind of expects that. It is definitely going to have a different feel.

"As they explained to us, all the complications with putting the schedule together, this may happen from time to time. It just happens that it's Stanford and us this year. It could happen to someone else next year depending on the scheduling."

Said Shaw: "The biggest challenge is all the activities that are around the game. It's going to be hard to do all of those when we are not at the end of the season."

Another rivalry that will be forced to take on a different feel is the Apple Cup between Washington and Washington State. For years, the game was held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. A few times in recent years, it has been held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, only when it's in Seattle, where a majority of the alums of both schools live.

WSU had long said it didn't want to play its Apple Cup home games when students were not in session, since that could substantially affect attendance. But the needs of the new TV contract won out, so the Huskies and Cougars will play this year on the Friday after Thanksgiving in Pullman.

WSU athletic director Bill Moos said he was confident an improved team and excitement about the program will fill up the seats even when students are on vacation.

He also knows that it's a way to pay a pile of bills.

Ranking the Schedules

Gone, maybe for good, are the days when a team like Washington played Notre Dame, Oklahoma, and BYU all in one year, as was the case as recently as 2008.

As the conference continues to play nine conference games (half the teams have five Pac-12 home games, the other half gets only four), Pac-12 non-conference schedules aren't quite as rugged as they used to be. Teams are increasingly attempting to line up "A-B-C" non-conference schedules, trying to arrange for six or seven home games per season:

A) Marquee opponent for a big game, probably requiring a home-and-home series over two or four years.

B) Fairly competitive opponent (possibly home-and-home, but not always) that could add to a TV slate.

C) An overmatched foe that probably does not require a return game on the road ... and can generally be marked down as a win when the contract is signed.

Having said that, all schedules are certainly not equal. Who teams play in non-conference, where they play them, and what conference opponents are off the schedule are all key factors in determining the difficulty of schedule.

1. USC — The Trojans open with Hawaii (B), then Syracuse at the Meadowlands (B), then have their traditional game with Notre Dame (A) at home to end the season. And the conference slate is front-loaded with road games at Stanford, Utah and Washington, all by Oct. 13. Get through that unscathed, though, and all that may stand between them and an undefeated regular season is a Nov. 3 home game against Oregon. **Conference misses: Oregon State, Washington State.**

2. Washington — UW is finally getting a true "A-B-C" schedule just about every season, this year hosting San Diego State (B) and FCS Portland State (C) sandwiched around a money-earning, headline-grabbing trip to LSU (A-plus). UW's start to conference play couldn't be any more difficult, however, with Stanford, at Oregon

FOUR-YEAR STANDINGS

Oregon is the runaway winner in the past four seasons, while some "sleeping giants" — ASU, Washington, UCLA — reside in the lower half of the league. For what it's worth: Nine teams have changed head coaches in this four-year window; only Oregon State, Cal and Utah have not.

Team	Record	Pct.	All	Pct.	Ch/Div	M	B	Comment
Oregon	32-4	.889	44-9	.830	3/1	3	4	Averaging 11-2 for past four seasons.
Stanford	26-10	.722	36-15	.706	0/0	2	3	They aren't short-timers in high-rent district.
USC	25-11	.694	38-13	.745	1/0	1	2	With bowl ban over, will Trojans respond?
Oregon State	20-16	.556	26-24	.520	0/0	0	2	Yikes ... three backward steps in a row raise concerns.
California	18-18	.500	29-22	.569	0/0	0	3	Bears need a jolt, will new Memorial Stadium be it?
Arizona	17-19	.472	27-24	.529	0/0	0	3	Top-end was too low; can RichRod break out?
Arizona State	14-22	.388	21-28	.429	0/0	0	1	Perennially sleeping giant remains comatose.
Washington	14-22	.389	19-31	.380	0/0	0	2	19-19 past three years ... which way now, Huskies?
UCLA	13-23	.361	21-30	.418	0/1	0	2	A step up, or just Mora the same? (sorry)
Washington State	4-32	.111	9-40	.187	0/0	0	0	Leach rides in just as the corner comes into view.
*Utah	25-8	.758	41-11	.788	1/0	1	4	Showed they belong in first season (4-5) in Pac-12.
*Colorado	8-25	.242	16-33	.327	0/0	0	0	Entrance to Pac-12 came at a tough time.

***Utah (MWC) and Colorado (Big 12) have been in the Pac-12 for only one season.**

and USC in the first three, meaning UW faces four likely ranked teams in the first six weeks. **Conference misses: UCLA, Arizona State.**

3. Oregon State — The Beavers consistently play one of the toughest slates, and this year is no exception. After opening at home against Nicholls State (C), they host Wisconsin (A), and have a midseason date at BYU (A-minus). At least they miss mighty USC this year. **Conference misses: Colorado, USC.**

4. UCLA — The Bruins have non-conference games at Rice (B-minus) and then home to Nebraska (A) and Houston (B-plus), and then five home conference games, including Utah, Stanford and USC. **Conference misses: Washington State, Oregon State**

5. Washington State — The Cougars are the only Pac-12 team to play two true non-conference road games — at BYU (A-minus) and UNLV (B-minus). That's sandwiched around a home date with FCS foe Eastern Washington (C), the first meeting between the schools, located about 85 miles apart. WSU has five official Pac-12 home games, but a September date with Oregon will be played in Seattle. **Conference misses: USC, Arizona.**

6. Cal — Nevada (B), Southern Utah (C), at Ohio State (A-plus). This is pretty much how you draw up an "A-B-C" schedule as the Bears play two winnable home games before a test at Ohio State on the road entering conference play. And Cal also gets no help from its bye, which comes at the end of the season. **Conference misses: Arizona, Colorado.**

7. Arizona State — NAU (C), Illinois (B), at Missouri (A). First-year coach Todd Graham gets a competitive, but not overwhelming, schedule in his first season highlighted by a non-conference trip to Missouri, which will want revenge after last year's loss in Tempe. **Conference misses: Washington, Stanford.**

8. Stanford — The Cardinal opens with sure wins against San Jose State (C-plus) and Duke (B-minus) at home. But then it gets tough with five Pac-12 road games and the annual trip to Notre Dame (A) in the middle. Stanford has five of its last seven on the road, including the odd setting of The Big Game on Oct. 20 at Cal. **Conference misses: Utah, Arizona State.**

9. Arizona — Rich Rodriguez has a pretty favorable schedule for his first season, with eight home games, hosting Oklahoma State (A), Toledo (B-minus) and South Carolina State (C). The bad news is road games early in Pac-12 play at Stanford and Oregon. **Conference misses: WSU, Cal.**

10. Colorado — A year after playing one of the toughest schedules in the country (13 games in 13 weeks) the Buffs dial it back a bit: Colorado State (B), at Fresno State (B), and home against Sacramento State (C) before Pac-12 play. **Conference misses: Cal, Oregon State.**

11. Oregon — The Ducks play the easiest non-conference schedule in the Pac-12, with home games against Arkansas State (C), Fresno State (B), and Tennessee Tech (C). And with six of its first eight at home, Oregon will be heavily favored to be undefeated heading into a Nov. 3 game at USC. **Conference misses: UCLA, Utah.**

12. Utah — The non-conference schedule is highlighted by the game against BYU (A-minus) — a rivalry not guaranteed to continue, especially if the Pac-12 sticks with nine conference games. The Utes also host Northern Colorado (C) and play at Utah State (B-minus). The key: They get the most advantageous Pac-12 misses. **Conference misses: Oregon, Stanford.**

PAC-12 IN THE 2012 NFL DRAFT

The NFL did not exactly come out and proclaim the Pac-12 to be the conference of unbelievable talent.

In fact, the conference had only 28 players selected, well behind the 42 of the SEC, 41 of the Big Ten and 31 of the ACC. Even the Big 12's 10 teams had 25 taken — an average of 2.5 per school, compared to the Pac-12's 2.3 per team.

But The League did continue its long-term love affair with Pac-12 quarterbacks, as the Indianapolis Colts made Stanford's Andrew Luck the first player chosen. The Conference of Quarterbacks has now delivered 10 quarterbacks as the No. 1 pick of the NFL Draft, and four have been from Stanford.

In the 77 years of NFL drafts, 31 first selections have been quarterbacks — and 10 of the past 27 have been from the Pac-12.

Luck's predecessors from the conference have been Carson Palmer (USC, 2003), Drew Bledsoe (WSU, 1993), Troy Aikman (UCLA, 1989), John Elway (Stanford, 1983), Steve Bartkowski (Cal, 1975), Jim Plunkett (Stanford, 1971), Terry Baker (Oregon State, 1963), George Shaw (Oregon, 1955) and Bobby Garnett (Stanford, 1954). USC's Matt Barkley is well-positioned to become No. 11.

- Before Luck, the SEC had FOUR quarterbacks chosen first (Cam Newton, Matthew Stafford, JaMarcus Russell and Eli Manning) since the last Pac-12 quarterback was No. 1 (Palmer in 2003). The Big 12 had one in 2010 (Sam Bradford). Otherwise, the Big East last had one in 2001 (Michael Vick), the Big Ten in 1990 (Jeff George), and the ACC hasn't had one since 1962 (Roman Gabriel).
- After Luck was the first pick, the Pac-12 also had Brock Osweiler and Nick Foles selected in the first three rounds — which meant the conference had three of the first seven QBs chosen.
- Cal — not Oregon, not USC — led the Pac-12 with six players drafted.
- Two of the league's top offensive stars last season went undrafted after leaving school a year early. Washington running back Chris Polk slipped on reports of a chronically damaged shoulder (he signed with Philadelphia). Oregon quarterback Darron Thomas also was undrafted, apparently owing to his shaky throwing accuracy and off-field issues (he remained unsigned weeks after the draft).

Pick	Round 1	School	Pos	NFL Team
1	Andrew Luck	Stanford	QB	Indianapolis
4	Matt Kalil	USC	OT	Minnesota
24	David DeCastro	Stanford	OG	Pittsburgh
28	Nick Perry	USC	DE	Green Bay
Pick	**Round 2**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
2	Coby Fleener	Stanford	TE	Indianapolis
5	Mitchell Schwartz	California	OT	Cleveland
10	Jonathan Martin	Stanford	OT	Miami
14	Mychal Kendricks	California	LB	Philadelphia
25	Brock Osweiler	Arizona State	QB	Denver
29	LaMichael James	Oregon	RB	San Francisco
Pick	**Round 3**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
7	Bryan Anger	California	P	Jacksonville
16	Brandon Hardin	Oregon State	S	Chicago
25	Nick Foles	Arizona	QB	Philadelphia
32	Tony Bergstrom	Utah	OL	Oakland
Pick	**Round 4**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
6	Omar Bolden	Arizona State	CB	Denver
14	Alameda Ta'amu	Washington	DT	Pittsburgh
33	Rhett Ellison	USC	FB/TE	Minnesota
Pick	**Round 5**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
16	Senio Kelemete	Washington	OT	Arizona
20	Josh Kaddu	Oregon	LB	Miami
25	Ryan Miller	Colorado	OG	Cleveland
31	Marvin Jones	California	WR	Cincinnati
33	Juron Criner	Arizona	WR	Oakland
Pick	**Round 6**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
8	Mark Asper	Oregon	OG	Buffalo
Pick	**Round 7**	**School**	**Pos**	**NFL Team**
9	D.J. Campbell	California	S	Carolina
12	Trevor Guyton	California	DE	Minnesota
24	Toney Clemons	Colorado	WR	Pittsburgh
33	David Paulson	Oregon	TE	Pittsburgh
38	Trevin Wade	Arizona	CB	Cleveland

RATING THE PAC-12

QUARTERBACKS

1. USC
2. WASHINGTON
3. WASHINGTON STATE
4. OREGON
5. UTAH
6. CALIFORNIA
7. OREGON STATE
8. ARIZONA
9. UCLA
10. STANFORD
11. ARIZONA STATE
12. COLORADO

While the strength of many positions is often determined by depth, quarterback is usually about star power at the top.

No team in the conference has more of that this year than USC, which got a surprise gift when Matt Barkley returned for his senior season after throwing for 39 touchdowns — including twice throwing six in a game — and just seven interceptions in 12 games last year. He was sacked just eight times, which helps cut down the risk of injury. The Trojans hope for more of the same because they don't have an experienced backup.

Washington's Keith Price was barely behind Barkley in production last season. Price was a revelation as a sophomore, as he threw for a school-record 33 touchdowns — and that came as he battled injuries throughout the season. UW, like USC, has no experienced depth.

WSU has two quarterbacks who have started and won Pac-12 games in Jeff Tuel and Connor Halliday; expect Tuel, now a senior, to be the opening-day starter.

Oregon lost Darron Thomas early but appears to have able replacements in Bryan Bennett and Marcus Mariota. Utah should be much improved at quarterback this year if Jordan Wynn stays healthy.

RUNNING BACKS

1. OREGON
2. CALIFORNIA
3. ARIZONA STATE
4. STANFORD
5. UTAH
6. UCLA
7. USC
8. ARIZONA
9. WASHINGTON
10. OREGON STATE
11. WASHINGTON STATE
12. COLORADO

Only a school at Oregon's level could lose one star running back early to the NFL (LaMichael James), have two highly-touted younger players transfer in the last year ... and still have the best stable of backs in the conference.

That's what the Ducks have in the tandem of Kenjon Barner (939 yards last season backing up James) and the electric De'Anthony Thomas (595 yards on just 55 carries), whose full array of talents figure to be unleashed this season.

Elsewhere, there are five returning 1,000-yard rushers, including Cal's Isi Sofele (1,322), who leads what should be a deep corps of backs in Berkeley. Cameron Marshall (1,050 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2011) is back to power a deeper and more-committed running game at Arizona State.

Stanford's powerful line has sometimes overshadowed the ability of Stepfan Taylor. If he can duplicate or better last year's 1,330 yards, he'll get all the credit he wants. The leading returning rusher in the conference is Utah's John White IV, who gained 1,519 yards last year after arriving as a junior college transfer.

The final returning 1,000-yard rusher is USC's Curtis McNeal (1,005), but the Trojans are crossing their fingers about staying healthy at the position.

RECEIVERS

1. USC
2. WASHINGTON STATE
3. OREGON STATE
4. CALIFORNIA
5. WASHINGTON
6. STANFORD
7. OREGON
8. UTAH
9. ARIZONA
10. ARIZONA STATE
11. UCLA
12. COLORADO

No conference can match the quality of top-flight receivers in the Pac-12. The league has three who could be first-round picks in 2013 — USC's Robert Woods, Cal's Keenan Allen and Washington State's Marquess Wilson — and Trojans sophomore Marqise Lee could actually be the best of the bunch.

Woods scored a conference-high 15 touchdowns in 2012, while the electric Lee added 11, giving the Trojans the best receiving duo in the nation.

Wilson led the conference in receiving yards per game last season at 115.7. He returns for his junior year to lead a WSU receiving corps that should thrive under first-year coach Mike Leach, whose history shows he'll get the best out of what WSU has.

Speedy senior Markus Wheaton returns after catching 73 passes for 986 yards last season to guide an unheralded but talented Oregon State receiving corps.

Allen alone makes Cal dangerous, but the Bears are otherwise very young. Washington needs to replace Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar, four-year stalwarts. But immensely talented sophomore Kasen Williams could be due for a breakout.

At Stanford, if some young guys continue to mature, the Cardinal could have a more varied receiving corps than the tight-end dominated group of the past few years. Utah's DeVonte Christopher could see his numbers rise dramatically with the return of quarterback Jordan Wynn.

OFFENSIVE LINE

1. STANFORD
2. USC
3. OREGON
4. UTAH
5. CALIFORNIA
6. ARIZONA
7. ARIZONA STATE
8. COLORADO
9. UCLA
10. WASHINGTON
11. OREGON STATE
12. WASHINGTON STATE

Stanford loses two high NFL Draft picks off its line and still has the best unit in the Pac-12. Such is the Cardinal's strength up front, which includes a recruiting class touted by some to include the best haul of offensive linemen in recent memory.

Stanford does lose guard David DeCastro (the 24th overall pick) and tackle Jonathan Martin (the 42nd pick). But the Cardinal returns three starters, including potential all-conference players in left tackle David Yankey and right tackle Cameron Fleming. Also back is center Sam Schwartzstein.

USC likewise suffered a big loss in left tackle Matt Kalil (a first-round pick of the Vikings). But the Trojans return four starters on a line that allowed just eight sacks last season and could certainly challenge Stanford as the league's best. The returners include center Khaled Holmes, expected to vie for All-America honors.

Oregon rarely produces a high-round NFL pick off its line, but always fields a group that is among the best in the conference. This year should be no exception. The Ducks were touting this group in the spring as one of their deepest ever. The standout should be guard Carson York.

USC, Oregon, Utah Defensive Units Lead The Way

DEFENSIVE LINE

1. UTAH
2. CALIFORNIA
3. USC
4. STANFORD
5. OREGON
6. UCLA
7. WASHINGTON
8. OREGON STATE
9. ARIZONA STATE
10. ARIZONA
11. WASHINGTON STATE
12. COLORADO

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham has made his coaching name by fielding tough defenses year in and year out.

He has the makings of a particularly good one this year, led by senior defensive tackle Star Lotulelei, who is ready to burst onto the national scene in his second season after transferring from junior college. The brother tandem of tackle Dave Kruger and end Joe Kruger adds to the Utes' proven and experienced front.

Cal lost defensive line coach Tosh Lupoi to Washington, but his recruits of the past few years remained in Berkeley, and the Bears will again have one of the best fronts in the conference, led by star junior end Deandre Coleman.

USC's line is more untested than other areas of its excellent defense, but the front is solid, with potential star power in ends Wes Horton and Devon Kennard. Stanford's defensive front, an underrated part of the team's recent success, is led by defensive end Ben Gardner and nose tackle Terrence Stephens.

Oregon end Dion Jordan will be one of the best in the conference. Other budding stars include Oregon State end Scott Crichton and Washington end Josh Shirley.

LINEBACKERS

1. STANFORD
2. OREGON
3. USC
4. UTAH
5. UCLA
6. CALIFORNIA
7. COLORADO
8. ARIZONA STATE
9. ARIZONA
10. OREGON STATE
11. WASHINGTON
12. WASHINGTON STATE

Stanford, Oregon and USC — regarded as the three favorites for the Pac-12 title this year — could each argue they have the best set of linebackers in the conference.

Stanford's group could be the best in the country if Shayne Skov, the team's leading tackler in 2010, returns fully from a knee injury suffered last season. The Cardinal knows it will have Chase Thomas, who led the conference with 17.5 tackles for loss last year.

Oregon is led by senior Michael Clay, the leading returning tackler in the Pac-12 (9.3 per game last season) and Boseko Lokombo, who scored three touchdowns last year.

USC is young but talented at linebacker, led by sophomores Dion Bailey and Hayes Pullard.

Utah is also young at linebacker, but junior Trevor Reilly could be a breakout star this season.

UCLA is among the many teams in the conference, and country, switching to more 3-4 looks. The Bruins have rising star Eric Kendricks and a solid returning starter in Patrick Larimore, but they have depth concerns.

Cal lost Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year Mychael Kendricks (Eric's older brother), but sophomore Chris McCain is among many young Bear defenders who could break out this year.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. USC
2. OREGON
3. UTAH
4. OREGON STATE
5. WASHINGTON
6. WASHINGTON STATE
7. UCLA
8. ARIZONA STATE
9. STANFORD
10. ARIZONA
11. CALIFORNIA
12. COLORADO

USC gave up plenty of passing yards last season (263.3 per game), but the Trojans were at their stingiest when it mattered, allowing the fewest passing touchdowns in the league (17). Now, the Trojans return the best combination of safety (T.J. McDonald) and cornerback (Nickell Robey) in the conference.

Oregon counters with its standout combination — safety John Boyett and cornerback Terrance Mitchell — from a secondary that was the best in the conference last season in terms of pass defense efficiency.

Utah is listing hybrid Brian Blechen at safety and also has one of the more underrated corners in the conference in senior Ryan Lacy.

Oregon State is led by cornerback Jordan Poyer, another who could make a claim as the best shutdown corner in the conference.

Washington's secondary was oft-blistered last season. But hopes for a UW defensive turnaround rest largely on an inexperienced secondary that might be better than last year's numbers would indicate. The secondary is led by senior cornerback Desmond Trufant, younger brother of longtime NFL standout Marcus Trufant.

Washington State also returns a load of experience in the back end, led by junior safety Deone Bucannon.

SPECIAL TEAMS

1. OREGON
2. USC
3. UTAH
4. STANFORD
5. UCLA
6. ARIZONA STATE
7. ARIZONA
8. OREGON STATE
9. CALIFORNIA
10. WASHINGTON
11. WASHINGTON STATE
12. COLORADO

Having Oregon at the top of this list might raise an eyebrow from those who remember the team's struggles with its field-goal kicking last season.

But special teams is about much more. The Ducks reigned supreme in every other area last season with returners such as De'Anthony Thomas, the best punt game in the conference led by punter Jackson Rice, and a daring style that led to five two-point conversions. On returns, the Ducks team had three total kick or punt returns for touchdowns in conference play, a Pac-12 high.

USC will be right on Oregon's heels, though, with standout returners such as receivers Robert Woods and Marqise Lee, and cornerback Nickell Robey. The Trojans return standout placekicker Andre Heidari and their starting punter.

Other good returning kickers include Oregon State's Trevor Romaine and Utah's Coleman Petersen.

Also back is Stanford's Jordan Williamson, who while remembered for his Fiesta Bowl miss, was 13 of 19 on field-goal attempts last season. Stanford also should have dangerous returners.

Arizona punter Kyle Dugandzic is back after averaging 46.0 yards per attempt last season. Other stellar punters include UCLA's Jeff Locke, who figures to be among the best NFL prospects at his position.

PAC-12 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE RACE

With the conference's power having drifted north in recent seasons, the league's drama sat squarely on a Nov. 12 game between Oregon and Stanford. Neither disappointed, with the Cardinal going into that home game ranked third in the nation with a 9-0 record, and the sixth-ranked Ducks having been perfect in six conference games.

Stanford was within 22-16 at halftime, but Oregon, as it often did, burned rubber in the second half and zipped to a resounding 53-30 victory, ending the Cardinal's national-best 17-game winning streak.

Oregon, briefly, was back in the national championship discussion, a status it surrendered a week later by losing at home to USC. Still, the head-to-head win over Stanford provided the tie-breaking cushion, and the Ducks clinched the North with a win over Oregon State in the regular-season finale.

The Trojans won the South on the field, but not in the record books, ineligible for the title because of NCAA sanctions. UCLA was the shocking winner of the division, with the race pivoting on Nov. 5.

ASU had a seeming head-lock on the division and was ranked 20th nationally when it traveled to Pasadena to take on a so-so Bruins team. UCLA scored a touchdown in the final minute and survived an errant 46-yard field-goal try from the Devils as time expired to pull off the 29-28 upset.

ASU never recovered, going 0-3 the rest of the way. Losses by the Devils and Utah on the day after Thanksgiving handed UCLA the division title on a platter ... and then the Bruins were devoured by USC, 50-0, to finish the regular season at 6-6.

THE CHAMPION

Oregon handily beat UCLA, 49-31, in the inaugural Pac-12 Championship Game, played in Autzen Stadium because of the Ducks' league-best record.

Oregon won its third consecutive conference championship, but fell short of back-to-back BCS Championship Game appearances because of its opening loss to LSU (in Arlington) and the home defeat to USC.

Chip Kelly's guys were rarely boring, led by running backs LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner, quarterback Darron Thomas, and all-around threat De'Anthony Thomas.

The super-speedy Ducks scored at least 40 points in 11 of 14 games, ranking third nationally with 46.1 points per game. The problem: Oregon was 1-2 when scoring fewer than 40 points.

The Ducks are 25-2 in their three-year run of league crowns.

THE STARS

Offensive Player of the Year: Andrew Luck, QB, Stanford

He might have been the most perfect NFL quarterback prospect since another Stanford player a few decades earlier (yeah, that Elway guy). The stats were great (288 of 404 for 3,517 yards, with 37 TDs and 10 INTs); his savvy and ability to make calls at the line of scrimmage were off the charts.

Defensive Player of the Year: Mychal Kendricks, LB, California

At only 5-11, he measured up in every other way on the field, making 107 tackles, including 14.5 for loss, for a team that led the Pac-12 in total defense. The powerfully built Kendricks had an eye-opening NFL Combine by running the 40-yard dash in 4.41 seconds — the fastest by a linebacker in 12 years.

Coach of the Year: David Shaw, Stanford

Shaw held tight to the tenants of the Jim Harbaugh era, and, once again, toughness and physical play usually carried the day for the Cardinal. Sure, it helped that Andrew Luck was at quarterback, but Shaw's demeanor and strategy — and subsequent recruiting efforts — showed that Stanford hired the right man.

THE BOWLS

A year after putting a paltry four teams into the postseason, the expanded Pac-12 qualified seven squads (sans ineligible USC). The league didn't do much winning, but there was no arguing with the price of admission for the top four bowls, with Oregon winning its first Rose Bowl in 95 years and Stanford falling just short in its second consecutive BCS appearance.

Rose	**Oregon 45,** Wisconsin 38
Fiesta	Oklahoma State 41, **Stanford 38**
Alamo	Baylor 67, **Washington 56**
Sun	**Utah 30,** Georgia Tech 27
Holiday	Texas 21, **California 10**
Maaco Las Vegas	Boise State 56, **Arizona State 24**
Kraft Fight Hunger	Illinois 20, **UCLA 14**

ALL-PAC-12 TEAM

(as selected by the league coaches)

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Andrew Luck	Stanford
RB	LaMichael James	Oregon
RB	Chris Polk	Washington
WR	Keenan Allen	California
WR	Robert Woods	USC
TE	Coby Fleener	Stanford
OL	Tony Bergstrom	Utah
OL	David DeCastro	Stanford
OL	Matt Kalil	USC
OL	Jonathan Martin	Stanford
OL	Mitchell Schwartz	California
PK	Andre Heidari	USC
RS	De'Anthony Thomas	Oregon

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	Matt Barkley	USC
RB	Stepfan Taylor	Stanford
RB	John White IV	Utah
WR	Marqise Lee	USC
WR	Marquess Wilson	Washington State
TE	David Paulson	Oregon
OL	David Bakhtiari	Colorado
OL	John Cullen	Utah
OL	Garth Gerhart	Arizona State
OL	Khaled Holmes	USC
OL	Senio Kelemete	Washington
PK	Jordan Williamson	Stanford
RS	Jamal Miles	Arizona State

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Dion Jordan	Oregon
DL	Star Lotulelei	Utah
DL	Nick Perry	USC
DL	Derrick Shelby	Utah
LB	Josh Kaddu	Oregon
LB	Mychal Kendricks	California
LB	Chase Thomas	Stanford
DB	Delano Howell	Stanford
DB	T.J. McDonald	USC
DB	Eddie Pleasant	Oregon
DB	Nickell Robey	USC
P	Bryan Anger	California
ST	Rhett Ellison	USC

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Ben Gardner	Stanford
DL	Trevor Guyton	California
DL	Wes Horton	USC
DL	Travis Long	Washington State
LB	Dion Bailey	USC
LB	Cort Dennison	Washington
LB	Alex Hoffman-Ellis	Washington State
DB	John Boyett	Oregon
DB	Clint Floyd	Arizona State
DB	Jordan Poyer	Oregon State
DB	Trevin Wade	Arizona
P	Jackson Rice	Oregon
ST	Derrick Coleman	UCLA

THE STANDINGS

North Division	P12	Pct.	PF	PA	All	Pct.	PF	PA
Oregon	8-1	.890	399	209	12-2	.857	645	345
Stanford	8-1	.890	394	213	11-2	.846	561	285
Washington	5-4	.556	270	290	7-6	.538	434	467
California	4-5	.444	223	227	7-6	.538	368	314
Oregon State	3-6	.333	206	268	3-9	.250	262	370
Washington State	2-7	.222	211	311	4-8	.333	358	381
South Division	**P12**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**	**All**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
USC	7-2	.778	341	232	10-2	.833	429	283
UCLA	5-4	.556	197	266	6-8	.429	323	439
Utah	4-5	.444	188	202	8-5	.615	325	263
Arizona State	4-5	.444	308	255	6-7	.462	431	372
Arizona	2-7	.222	269	341	4-8	.333	369	425
Colorado	2-7	.222	162	354	3-10	.231	257	475

2011 PAC-12 LEADERS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PASS EFFICIENCY	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	TD	EFF.
1. Andrew Luck, Stanford	13	404	288	10	71.3	3517	37	169.7
2. Keith Price, Washington	13	362	242	11	66.9	3063	33	161.9
3. Matt Barkley, USC	12	446	308	7	69.1	3528	39	161.2
4. Darron Thomas, Oregon	13	339	211	7	62.2	2761	33	158.7
5. Nick Foles, Arizona	12	560	387	14	69.1	4329	28	145.5
6. Brock Osweiler, Arizona State	13	516	326	13	63.2	4036	26	140.5
7. Marshall Lobbestael, Washington State	11	341	208	8	61.0	2584	19	138.3
8. Kevin Prince, UCLA	11	224	126	8	56.2	1828	12	135.3
9. Sean Mannion, Oregon State	12	473	305	18	64.5	3328	16	127.1
10. Zach Maynard, California	13	405	231	12	57.0	2990	17	127.0

INTERCEPTIONS	G	NO.	YDS	TD	AVG/G	LONG
1. Sha Richardson, Arizona	10	4	73	1	41	0.40
2. Damante Horton, Washington State	12	4	76	1	76	0.33
Jordan Poyer, Oregon State	12	4	56	1	51	0.33
4. Conroy Black, Utah	13	4	158	1	67	0.31
Clint Floyd, Arizona State	13	4	45	0	31	0.31
Andrew Abbott, UCLA	13	4	37	0	28	0.31
Sean Parker, Washington	13	4	25	0	23	0.31
8. Sean Westgate, UCLA	11	3	28	0	24	0.27
9. Alden Darby, Arizona State	12	3	40	0	32	0.25
T.J. McDonald, USC	12	3	37	0	25	0.25

RUSHING	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. LaMichael James, Oregon	12	247	1805	7.3	18	150.4
2. John White, Utah	13	316	1519	4.8	15	116.8
3. Chris Polk, Washington	13	293	1488	5.1	12	114.5
4. Stepfan Taylor, Stanford	13	242	1330	5.5	10	102.3
5. Isi Sofele, California	13	252	1322	5.2	10	101.7
6. Curtis McNeal, USC	12	145	1005	6.9	6	83.8
7. Cameron Marshall, Arizona State	13	230	1050	4.6	18	80.8
8. Kenjon Barner, Oregon	12	152	939	6.2	11	78.2
9. Rodney Stewart, Colorado	11	189	854	4.5	4	77.6
10. Johna Franklin, UCLA	14	166	976	5.9	5	69.7

SCORING	G	TD	FG	XPT	2XP	PTS	PTS/G
1. LaMichael James, Oregon	12	20	0	0	0	120	10.0
2. Jordan Williamson, Stanford	10	0	13	54	0	93	9.3
3. Cameron Marshall, Arizona State	13	18	0	0	0	108	8.3
4. Andre Heidari, USC	12	0	15	50	0	95	7.9
5. De'Anthony Thomas, Oregon	14	18	0	0	2	110	7.9
6. John White, Utah	13	17	0	0	0	102	7.8
7. Alejandro Maldonado, Oregon	13	0	7	77	2	100	7.7
8. Robert Woods, USC	12	15	0	0	0	90	7.5
9. Alex Garoutte, Arizona State	13	0	15	52	0	97	7.5
10. Gior Tavecchio, California	13	0	20	36	0	96	7.4

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	RUSH	PASS	PLAYS	TOT	YDS/G
1. Nick Foles, Arizona	12	-103	4329	603	4226	352.2
2. Brock Osweiler, Arizona State	13	90	4036	599	4126	317.4
3. Matt Barkley, USC	12	14	3528	474	3542	295.2
4. Andrew Luck, Stanford	13	150	3517	451	3667	282.1
5. Sean Mannion, Oregon State	12	-190	3328	505	3138	261.5
6. Zach Maynard, California	13	108	2990	489	3098	238.3
7. Keith Price, Washington	13	10	3063	418	3073	236.4
8. Tyler Hansen, Colorado	13	115	2883	493	2998	230.6
9. Darron Thomas, Oregon	13	206	2761	395	2967	228.2
10. Marshall Lobbestael, Washington State	11	-104	2584	383	2480	225.5

PUNTING	G	NO.	YDS	LG	AVG
1. Kyle Dugandzic, Arizona	12	40	1840	64	46.0
2. Jackson Rice, Oregon	14	48	2201	61	45.9
3. Kiel Rasp, Washington	11	38	1733	62	45.6
4. Sean Sellwood, Utah	13	50	2251	67	45.0
5. Jeff Locke, UCLA	14	64	2838	70	44.3
6. Bryan Anger, California	13	53	2345	64	44.2
7. Johnny Hekker, Oregon State	12	50	2202	65	44.0
8. Darragh O'Neill, Colorado	13	74	3152	57	42.6
9. David Green, Stanford	13	34	1417	55	41.7
10. Josh Hubner, Arizona State	13	62	2562	61	41.3

RECEIVING YDS/GAME	G	REC	YDS	TD	YDS/G
1. Marq. Wilson, Washington State	12	82	1388	12	115.7
2. Robert Woods, USC	12	111	1292	15	107.7
3. Gerell Robinson, Arizona State	13	77	1397	7	107.5
4. Keenan Allen, California	13	98	1343	6	103.3
5. Marqise Lee, USC	12	73	1143	11	95.2
6. Juron Criner, Arizona	11	75	956	11	86.9
7. Nelson Rosario, UCLA	14	64	1161	5	82.9
8. Markus Wheaton, Oregon State	12	73	986	1	82.2
9. Marvin Jones, California	13	62	846	3	65.1
10. DeVonte Christopher, Utah	11	42	663	5	60.3

TEAM STATISTICS

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	PLAYS	YDS.	AVG/P	TD	YDS/G
1. Oregon	14	1015	7319	7.2	81	522.8
2. Stanford	13	935	6361	6.8	70	489.3
3. Arizona	12	908	5578	6.1	46	464.8
4. USC	12	839	5481	6.5	51	456.8
5. Arizona State	13	950	5795	6.1	50	445.8
6. Washington State	12	884	5069	5.7	43	422.4
7. Washington	13	858	5328	6.2	55	409.8
8. California	13	924	5219	5.6	42	401.5
9. UCLA	14	898	5273	5.9	41	376.6
10. Oregon State	12	821	4484	5.5	28	373.7
11. Colorado	13	851	4502	5.3	31	346.3
12. Utah	13	806	4041	5	35	310.9

TOTAL DEFENSE	G	PLYS	YDS.	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. California	13	840	4328	5.2	36	332.9
2. Stanford	13	815	4389	5.4	34	337.6
3. Utah	13	919	4562	5	25	350.9
4. USC	12	826	4497	5.4	34	374.8
5. Oregon	14	1077	5461	5.1	39	390.1
6. Washington State	12	787	4915	6.2	43	409.6
7. Oregon State	12	840	4935	5.9	49	411.2
8. UCLA	14	989	5840	5.9	54	417.1
9. Arizona State	13	905	5487	6.1	42	422.1
10. Colorado	13	868	5711	6.6	60	439.3
11. Washington	13	917	5893	6.4	54	453.3
12. Arizona	12	839	5526	6.6	52	460.5

KICKOFF RETURNS	G	RET	YDS.	TD	AVG.
1. Arizona State	13	66	1658	3	25.1
2. Oregon	14	57	1420	2	24.9
3. Washington	13	75	1751	0	23.3
4. Utah	13	41	946	0	23.1
5. Washington State	12	59	1348	0	22.8
6. Stanford	13	44	992	1	22.5
7. Oregon State	12	56	1233	0	22.0
8. Arizona	12	57	1199	0	21.0
9. UCLA	14	63	1317	0	20.9
10. USC	12	42	870	1	20.7
11. California	13	51	1022	1	20.0
12. Colorado	13	69	1281	0	18.6

SCORING OFFENSE	G	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Oregon	14	88	80	5	0	9	0	645	46.1
2. Stanford	13	73	68	1	0	17	1	561	43.2
3. USC	12	55	50	1	0	15	1	429	35.8
4. Washington	13	57	57	0	1	11	0	434	33.4
5. Arizona State	13	55	52	2	0	15	0	431	33.2
6. Arizona	12	49	37	4	0	10	0	369	30.8
7. Washington State	12	45	41	1	0	15	0	358	29.8
8. California	13	45	36	1	0	20	0	368	28.3
9. Utah	13	39	37	0	0	18	0	325	25.0
10. UCLA	14	42	34	1	0	11	1	323	23.1
11. Oregon State	12	31	27	1	0	15	1	262	21.8
12. Colorado	13	32	30	0	0	11	1	257	19.8

SCORING DEFENSE	G	TD	XP	2XP	DXP	FG	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Utah	13	15	28	1	31	0	1	263	20.2
2. Stanford	13	9	32	2	37	0	0	285	21.9
3. USC	12	8	29	4	37	0	0	283	23.6
4. California	13	14	36	1	39	0	0	314	24.2
5. Oregon	14	15	36	2	43	0	1	345	24.6
6. Arizona State	13	18	42	0	46	0	0	372	28.6
7. Oregon State	12	5	45	2	51	0	0	370	30.8
8. UCLA	14	14	53	1	57	0	0	439	31.4
9. Washington State	12	13	44	2	49	0	0	381	31.8
10. Arizona	12	16	51	0	54	0	1	425	35.4
11. Washington	13	20	53	2	58	0	1	467	35.9
12. Colorado	13	13	56	1	63	0	0	475	36.5

PUNT RETURNS	G	RET	YDS.	TD	AVG.
1. Arizona State	13	18	276	1	15.3
2. Oregon State	12	12	181	2	15.1
3. Stanford	13	19	215	0	11.3
4. USC	12	26	267	0	10.3
5. Oregon	14	33	315	2	9.5
6. Washington	13	21	194	1	9.2
7. Utah	13	33	298	0	9.0
8. California	13	20	116	0	5.8
9. Arizona	12	14	66	0	4.7
10. Colorado	13	13	56	0	4.3
11. Washington State	12	12	46	0	3.8
12. UCLA	14	16	49	0	3.1

RUSHING OFFENSE	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. Oregon	14	629	4189	6.7	42	299.2
2. Stanford	13	518	2738	5.3	32	210.6
3. UCLA	14	552	2497	4.5	23	178.4
4. USC	12	392	1951	5	12	162.6
5. California	13	484	2013	4.2	25	154.8
6. Washington	13	452	2006	4.4	19	154.3
7. Utah	13	472	1789	3.8	16	137.6
8. Arizona State	13	423	1678	4	23	129.1
9. Colorado	13	401	1413	3.5	10	108.7
10. Washington State	12	392	1202	3.1	13	100.2
11. Arizona	12	331	1134	3.4	17	94.5
12. Oregon State	12	318	1043	3.3	12	86.9

RUSHING DEFENSE	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. Stanford	13	363	1097	3	16	84.4
2. USC	12	369	1337	3.6	17	111.4
3. Utah	13	455	1476	3.2	7	113.5
4. California	13	442	1673	3.8	17	128.7
5. Oregon	14	548	1999	3.6	14	142.8
6. Arizona State	13	455	1938	4.3	21	149.1
7. Washington State	12	429	1886	4.4	19	157.2
8. Arizona	12	411	1939	4.7	30	161.6
9. Washington	13	431	2193	5.1	32	168.7
10. Colorado	13	454	2391	5.3	26	183.9
11. UCLA	14	518	2668	5.2	26	190.6
12. Oregon State	12	492	2362	4.8	21	196.8

PUNTING	G	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	RET	YDS.	TB	NET/P
1. Oregon	14	49	2204	45.0	133	2.7	2	41.4
2. Washington	13	52	2261	43.5	87	1.7	4	40.3
3. California	13	53	2345	44.2	119	2.2	6	39.7
4. Utah	13	70	3061	43.7	65	0.9	11	39.7
5. Oregon State	12	50	2202	44.0	126	2.5	6	39.1
6. UCLA	14	64	2838	44.3	283	4.4	4	38.7
7. USC	12	39	1562	40.1	104	2.7	0	37.4
8. Colorado	13	77	3165	41.1	250	3.2	2	37.3
9. Arizona State	13	62	2562	41.3	115	1.9	7	37.2
10. Stanford	13	37	1511	40.8	70	1.9	5	36.2
11. Washington State	12	57	2243	39.4	159	2.8	3	35.5
12. Arizona	12	43	1871	43.5	217	5.0	10	33.8

PASS OFFENSE	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. Arizona	12	577	398	15	69.0	4444	7.7	29	370.3
2. Washington State	12	492	297	12	60.4	3867	7.9	30	322.2
3. Arizona State	13	527	333	13	63.2	4117	7.8	27	316.7
4. USC	12	447	309	7	69.1	3530	7.9	39	294.2
5. Oregon State	12	503	320	19	63.6	3441	6.8	16	286.8
6. Stanford	13	417	297	10	71.2	3623	8.7	38	278.7
7. Washington	13	406	267	13	65.8	3322	8.2	36	255.5
8. California	13	440	246	12	55.9	3206	7.3	17	246.6
9. Colorado	13	450	250	11	55.6	3089	6.9	21	237.6
10. Oregon	14	386	236	7	61.1	3130	8.1	39	223.6
11. UCLA	14	346	193	9	55.8	2776	8.0	18	198.3
12. Utah	13	334	188	10	56.3	2252	6.7	19	173.2

PASS DEFENSE	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT.	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
1. California	13	398	224	12	56.3	2655	6.7	19	204.2
2. Oregon State	12	348	223	11	64.1	2573	7.4	28	214.4
3. UCLA	14	471	298	14	63.3	3172	6.7	28	226.6
4. Utah	13	464	260	19	56.0	3086	6.7	18	237.4
5. Oregon	14	529	313	17	59.2	3462	6.5	25	247.3
6. Washington State	12	358	230	8	64.2	3029	8.5	24	252.4
7. Stanford	13	452	279	7	61.7	3292	7.3	18	253.2
8. Colorado	13	414	271	7	65.5	3320	8.0	34	255.4
9. USC	12	457	292	9	63.9	3160	6.9	17	263.3
10. Arizona State	13	450	296	15	65.8	3549	7.9	21	273.0
11. Washington	13	486	305	10	62.8	3700	7.6	22	284.6
12. Arizona	12	428	282	11	65.9	3587	8.4	22	298.9

TURNOVER MARGIN	G	+FUM	+INT	TOT	-FUM	-INT	-TOT	MAR
1. Utah	13	14	19	33	13	10	23	+10
2. Arizona State	13	17	15	32	10	13	23	+9
3. Oregon	14	12	17	29	13	7	20	+9
4. Stanford	13	15	7	22	7	10	17	+5
5. Washington	13	13	10	23	9	13	22	+1
6. California	13	11	12	23	12	12	24	-1
7. USC	12	8	9	17	11	7	18	-1
8. Colorado	13	8	7	15	8	11	19	-4
9. Washington State	12	9	8	17	9	12	21	-4
10. UCLA	14	7	14	21	17	9	26	-5
11. Arizona	12	5	11	16	6	15	21	-5
12. Oregon State	12	12	11	23	12	19	31	-8

Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

MIKE LEACH

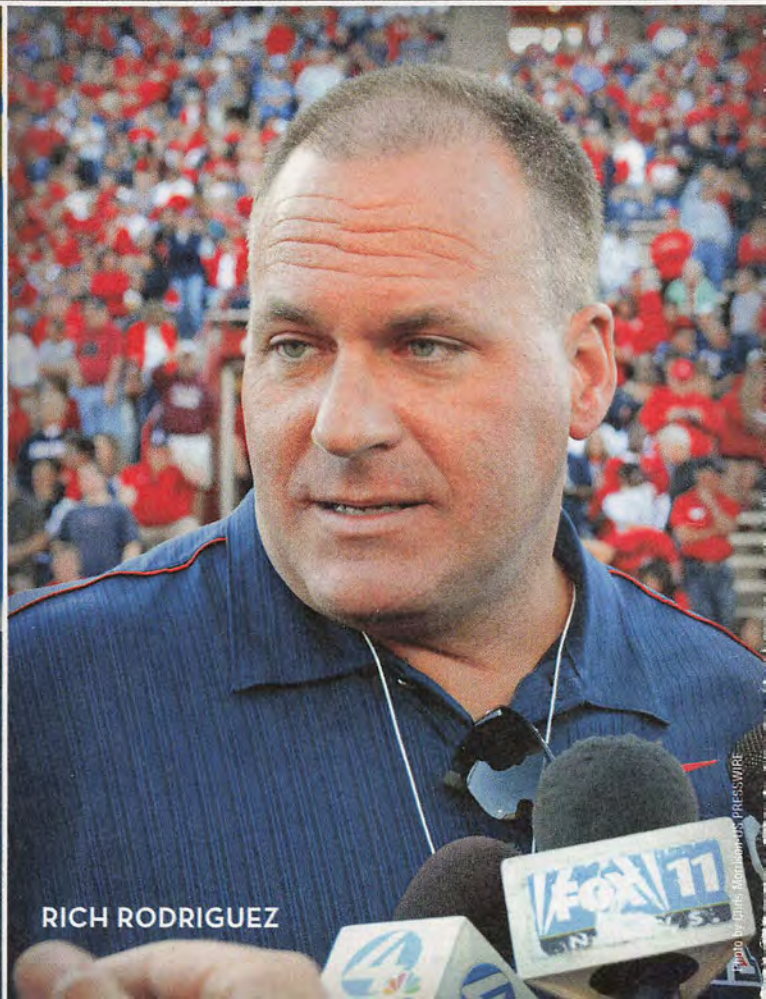
PERSONALITY FACE-LIFT

BY JON GOLD

COACHING CHANGES GIVE THE PAC-12 FOUR SHOTS IN THE ARM

Photo by Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

JIM MORA



RICH RODRIGUEZ

When Pete Carroll and Jim Harbaugh left the Pac-10 and bolted for the NFC West in successive years, they did not just take with them their movie-star good looks and championship smiles.

They stole away with their style, their flash and their flair, yanking away a good piece of the league's killer swag, taking *"What's your deal?!"* to the NFL and leaving the Pac-12 to start anew with ... Lane Kiffin? ... David Shaw? ... Jon Embree?

The league had given itself a personality transplant in the wrong direction. Nothing against the three young new guys, but let's face it, these were not legendary or even highly accomplished head coaches, unlike Carroll and Harbaugh.

Granted, Shaw led Stanford to the Fiesta Bowl in his first year. Kiffin led USC through the darkness of a bowl ban. And Embree led CU into the Pac-12.

The Pac-12 needed ... well, something. And the league's facelift in the winter of 2011-12 came just in time, as the conference turned over one-third of its coaching roster.

Blessed with a windfall, thanks to a new television deal that ranks among the most lucrative in college athletics, conference presidents opened their purse strings, buying their football programs' way back into the national sports headlines.

Enter Mike Leach to revive Washington State. And here's Rich Rodriguez to revitalize Arizona. In comes Jim Mora to resuscitate UCLA. And Todd Graham to rejuvenate Arizona State. It remains to be seen if any these guys turn out to be boffo or bozo ... but at least they are *interesting*.

This folks, is once again the rootin', tootin', run-'n'-shootin', fast-talkin', seat-rockin' Wild West.

Hold onto your 10-gallon hats.

"It's an infusion of personality, but more importantly than that, competitive personalities," said Fox Sports college football analyst Petros Papadakis.

"You have Leach, who's just beyond hilarious — like a cartoon ... and Mora, very serious, NFL demeanor. A guy like Todd Graham, who doesn't even allow swearing at Arizona State ... and RichRod, who's a blast."

The infusion of personality was important at each of the schools in need of a coaching change. Arizona and Washington State needed shots in the arm. UCLA and Arizona State needed slaps in the face.

As far as the conference was concerned, we needed somebody to keep folks from dozing off at the conference media days when Chip Kelly wasn't at the dais.

The Wildcats and Cougars pounced early, announcing the hires of Rodriguez and Leach just over a week apart in late November, getting a jump on the coaching carousel.

Practitioners of two of the highest-powered offenses of the 2000s — in totally different ways — the two instantly had fans dreaming of shimmering scoreboards. The Pirate and RichRod barely need introductions: Sure, they were available for a reason, but there are very strong sides to their stories, too.

TODD GRAHAM

Photo by Christian Petersen/Getty Images

These guys can recruit, they can coach, and WSU and Arizona are thrilled to have them. Look at it this way: Not long ago, it was inconceivable that Pullman and Tucson would be the 2012 addresses of such well-known, highly successful coaches ... at least in football.

For the most part, Paul Wulff and Mike Stoops were guys who these programs were OK with, unless the athletics directors could bring in some heavy hitters, which is exactly what they did.

UCLA and Arizona State, meanwhile, needed toughening up. After a four-year run packed with off-field incidents and on-field chaos under Neuheisel, athletic director Dan Guerrero went away from Bruin bloodlines for the first time in a half-century in hiring Mora.

Moving to the college game for the first time after 25 years in the NFL, Mora brought some of the pro game's demands with him, insisting on higher assistant coaches salaries and facilities upgrades, as well as the program's first football-dedicated strength and conditioning coach (Sal Alosi).

Then he went and assembled a staff of no-nonsense, fiery young coaches, swiping offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone and running backs coach Steve Broussard from Arizona State, and defensive backs coach Demetrice Martin from Washington.

Arizona State similarly had become an undisciplined lot under Dennis Erickson — Vontaze Burfict, anyone? — and in giving way to Graham, the Sun Devils clearly are calling for a commitment to focus and intensity.

OK, so Graham burned some bridges by using pitstops at Tulsa and Pittsburgh to punch his transfer ticket to Tempe, but he's shown some coaching acumen along the way.

Unlike their predecessors, both Mora and Graham have earned their reputations as defense-first coaches.

"It has a lot to do with going out and creating your own program," CBS college football analyst Bruce Feldman said. "You look for what you don't have. Very seldom do you see someone fire a defensive guy, and bring in defensive guy."

This round of hires, though, wasn't only about addressing a perceived weakness. It was about proving to the big boys around the country that the Pac-12 was ready to compete for high-profile coaches.

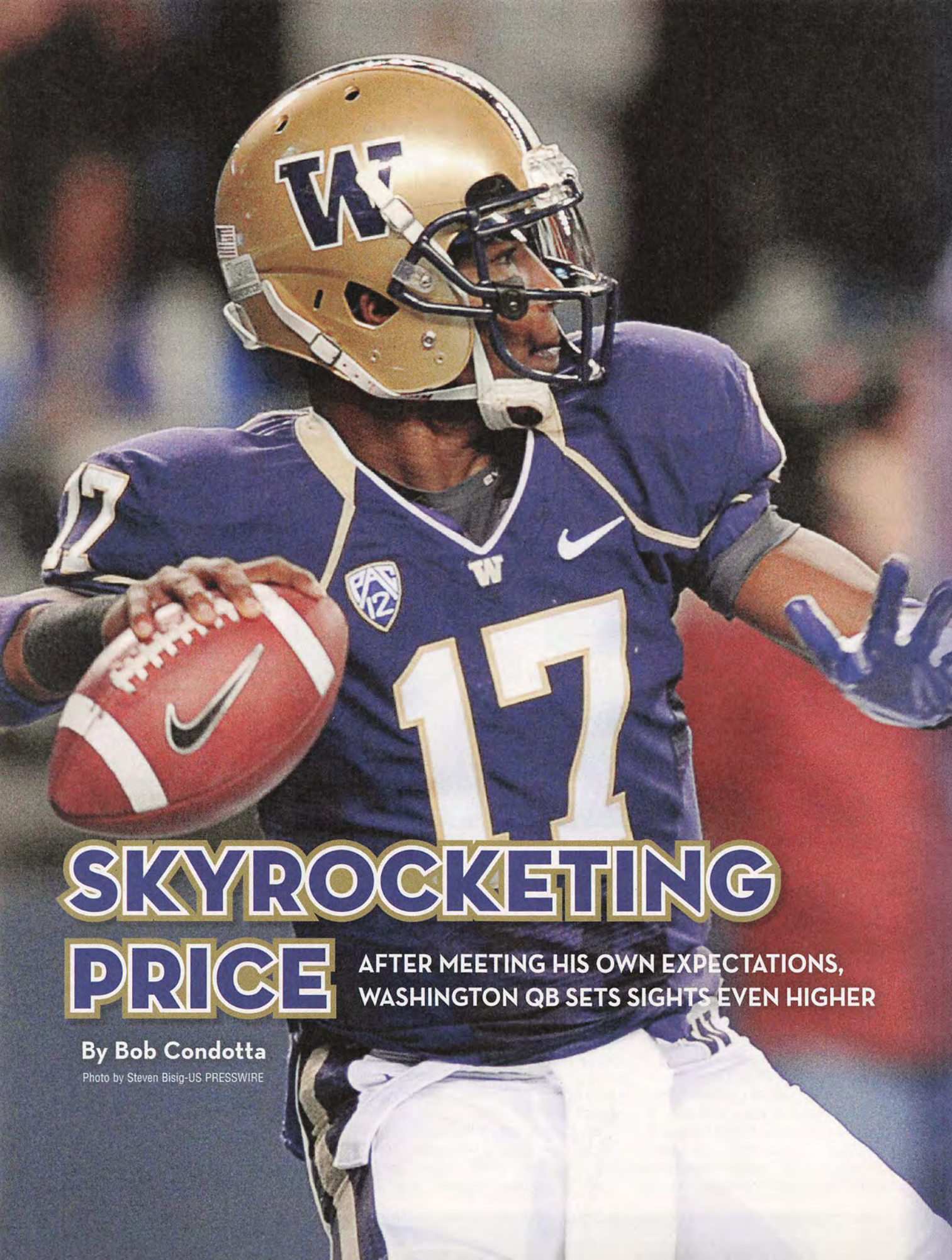
"If it's a vanilla league, you can get lost in it all," Feldman said. "It happens in a lot of ways — it doesn't mean you can't recruit with low-key personalities. But programs embrace a personality, and it does unify things, gives something to grab onto.

"You look at the SEC — it's a room full of caricatures — and a lot of those guys have a presence to them, a persona.

"If you look like you're apathetic, you get lost in the margins. Other people define you just as quick as that. That's a risk."

Pac-12 presidents decided it was a risk they couldn't take, so they pulled the trigger.

And the Wild West is back.



SKYROCKETING PRICE

AFTER MEETING HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS, WASHINGTON QB SETS SIGHTS EVEN HIGHER

By Bob Condotta

Photo by Steven Bisig-US PRESSWIRE

Keith Price turned a question mark into an exclamation point more quickly than anyone could have imagined, except maybe himself.

Given the seemingly herculean task last fall of replacing Jake Locker — a player who merely had achieved folk hero status in the state on the way to becoming the highest-drafted quarterback in University of Washington history — Price never flinched.

He threw three touchdown passes in his first game and never stopped, eventually tossing a school-record 33, while setting UW marks for completion percentage and passing efficiency. His performance was a key reason why the Huskies wound up in a bowl game for the second year in a row.

By October, one national publication was wondering if maybe the Huskies hadn't been starting the wrong quarterback the year before.

Price capped the season by posting better numbers in the Alamo Bowl than Baylor's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Robert Griffin. Price threw for four touchdowns and ran for three more in the weird, wild 67-56 loss.

Before, during or after the season, though, Price didn't bother himself much with the Locker comparisons. He was simply doing what he'd always thought he'd do.

"I prepared for it, and I prepare myself every day, so I kind of expected that," he said of the success he had in 2011, when he was overshadowed in the Pac-12 by Stanford's Andrew Luck and USC's Matt Barkley.

Yet, as Price's fame grew, so did the stories of a football-obsessed youth that helped shape the player he became.

A native of Compton, Calif., he fell in love with football at first sight, sleeping with a ball every night — something he said, without a hint of embarrassment, that he does to this day.

"He would go to the movies with a helmet on his head and a football in his hands," his mother Shaundra said before last season. "People would think he was crazy."

Equally deceptive is Price's ever-present smile, which earned him the nickname "Teeth" from his teammates and masks what coaches and teammates say is a competitive fire as strong as any.

"I guess I just like showing my teeth," Price said with — guess what? — a smile.

While Price was a relative unknown to fans heading into the 2011 season, he was hardly a secret to coaches.

Price shared Offensive Player of the Year honors in his high school league in Southern California with Barkley, and was recruited widely by Pac-12 schools, though not by the hometown Trojans, who had gotten an early commitment from Barkley.

Price, desiring to leave California, made his own early commitment to Washington in the summer of 2008 to then-UW coach Tyrone Willingham. When Willingham was fired midway through that season, Price briefly reconsidered, with Arizona State, Utah and Oregon making runs at him.

But then Willingham was replaced by a face familiar to Price, that of former USC assistant Steve Sarkisian, who had briefly recruited Price, but stopped when the Trojans got Barkley. Price quickly recommitted to the Huskies.

That meant, though, sitting behind Locker, who surprisingly decided to stay for his senior season in 2010. During that time, UW also signed Nick Montana, son of Hall of Famer Joe, who was immediately regarded by many as the heir apparent to Locker. Reflecting that popularity, the UW gift shop began selling jerseys with Montana's number on them, but not Price's.

Montana, though, never passed Price on the depth chart, and with Locker finally gone in the spring of 2011, Price emerged as the starter. By the end of the 2011 season, Montana had left, looking elsewhere to play major college football after spending a year in junior college.

Sarkisian compares Price, who was also a standout high school basketball player, to Charlie Ward in his ability to see the field, saying "he plays the game as a point guard. He distributes the ball very well. Very accurate."

Price seems to be especially accurate on the run, when he bides his time effectively and then deftly delivers to a receiver who comes open.

Price's exhaustive film study also gave him deeper knowledge of the vast offense. Sarkisian went so far as to say that Price was able to do more changing of plays at the line of scrimmage last season than Locker had the year before.

Price, though, couldn't escape the injury bug, suffering a knee injury in the first half of the first game. Later, that was compounded by an injury to the other knee. He was never really healthy again throughout the regular season.

The nagging knee injuries were not structural, however, and Price was close to 100 percent by the Alamo Bowl, when he rolled up all those touchdowns, rushed for 39 yards on five carries, and completed several passes after scrambles.

"Even with the knee problems, he was better than almost all the Pac-12 quarterbacks," said UW tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins. "He's just going to be even better with no knee problems. He's going to be running all over the place and it's going to be fun to watch."

That's Price's plan. He spent the offseason bulking up, playing in the spring at 195 pounds compared to the 185 at which he finished the 2011 season. He said he hopes to get to 205 by the fall.

He said he thinks being sturdier and healthier could make him better. He also lamented during the spring that he wanted to get more accurate with his passes, even if that seemed like the least of his issues following his 66.9-percent performance of 2011.

And as the 2012 season approaches, the worries that he could replace Locker are long gone; the team is unquestionably Price's.

On campus, though, Price has been relatively unknown; he says he rarely gets recognized: "I still don't think people really know who I am outside of the helmet."

Another year like he had in 2011, though, could change that quickly. Last year, he met his own expectations. Now, the expectations of his teammates, Husky fans, and opposing coaches could put him high on the radar of national exposure.

PRICE vs. BARKLEY

Washington's Keith Price is, barely, the top returning quarterback in the Pac-12, based on passing efficiency. Here are the stats of Price and USC's Matt Barkley from 2011:

PLAYER	COMP	ATT	PCT.	YDS	TDS	INTS	RATING
Keith Price	242	362	66.9	3,063	33	11	161.93
Matt Barkley	308	446	69.1	3,528	39	7	161.22

ARIZONA WILDCATS

For more coverage of the Wildcats, visit arizona.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Calvin Magee, Rod Smith **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Jeff Casteel **STADIUM:** Arizona Stadium: 57,400

AT A GLANCE

2011:
4-8, 2-7 Pac-12 (T-5th, South)

COACH:
Rich Rodriguez — At Arizona: 1st year; overall: 120-84-2, 18 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
12; 6 offense, 4 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Matt Scott, RB Ka'Deem Carey, C Kyle Quinn, LB Jake Fischer, LB Brian Wagner, CB Jonathan McKnight, S Tra'Mayne Bondurant

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Rodriguez reunited the majority of his winning coaching staff from West Virginia, and these guys know exactly what they want and how to get it done. Scott gives UA a chance to make the read-option offense work. Arizona has depth on both lines (although perhaps not a star), and options are good in the running game.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Arizona is adjusting to tricky new schemes on both sides of the ball. Rodriguez was disappointed in the collective strength and conditioning of the Cats, and his relentless, fast-paced practices often left players gassed in the spring. LT Mickey Baucus (back) and RT Fabbians Ebbele (suspension) were offseason questions.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Nick Foles, RB Keola Antolin, WR Juron Criner, WR David Douglas, WR Gino Crump, LB Paul Vassallo, CB Trevin Wade

OVERVIEW:
Former coach Mike Stoops improved the program but had stalled. Rodriguez has the energy, personality and know-how to lead Arizona to another level, and he definitely has something to prove after his messy three years at Michigan, where there was plenty of blame to go around. Consider this a honeymoon season, with expectations not rising until 2013.

Rodriguez's Rosy Outlook Gives Wildcats Hope

Rich Rodriguez, at his introductory press conference, ended up posing the question, "Why not Arizona?"

It was his first time ever in Tucson, but he knew enough of the cardinal-and-navy landscape to drop in a "Bear Down, Arizona" as he closed his comments. That was easy. The "Why not Arizona?" question runs much deeper.

The Wildcats, since joining the old Pac-10 in 1978, have never had the right combination of quarterback, coach, facilities, schedule, commitment and luck to win the conference title and go to the Rose Bowl.

Arizona has had its moments — the Cats were giant killers under Larry Smith, had two spikes into the national Top 10 under Dick Tomey, and had a run of three good bowl seasons under Mike Stoops. But athletic director Greg Byrne jettisoned Stoops at midseason last year with little argument, considering Arizona had lost 10 consecutive games to FBS competition.

The hiring of Rodriguez was considered quite a coup. A school like Arizona couldn't have touched a coach like Rodriguez several years ago, when he was taking West Virginia within a game of playing for the 2007 national championship and turning down a job offer from Alabama.

But Arizona was able to buy low on Rodriguez, who was out of coaching last season after his well-documented difficulties in three years at Michigan. Let's just call that a bad fit, with plenty of blame to go around.

Is Arizona a better fit?

In Tucson, Rodriguez was welcomed with the community's open arms and the full support of his athletic department. Here's another important difference: The most important transaction of the offseason might have been Rodriguez's hiring of his West Virginia defensive coordinator, Jeff Casteel, to run the 3-3-5 odd stack defense.

That Casteel didn't follow Rodriguez to Ann Arbor is considered a major factor in things going sour with the Wolverines.

"I thought it was time for another challenge," Casteel said of joining Arizona.

A challenge is what Rodriguez and the staff have as they try to be the ones, finally, to solve the question, "Why not Arizona?"

OFFENSE

Rodriguez spent his first spring in Tucson low-balling expectations for the Arizona debut of his read-option offense, the increasingly popular college scheme he devised at Glenville State in West Virginia about two decades ago.

He drew smiles in the offseason when he repeated, "The huddle is the biggest waste of time in football."

"It's no-nonsense," senior center Kyle Quinn said of the pace of the offense, which often left the players gassed during spring practice. "There is no wasted movement in Coach Rod's system. We're going to be fast. It's going to be something to see."

The transition from a quick-passing spread will take time, and Rodriguez doesn't expect to have the full playbook in until his second season. But he does have the most important piece: An experienced, dual-threat quarterback.

Senior Matt Scott, who redshirted last season behind Nick Foles, showed a good grasp of the attack in the spring, although he couldn't show off his running skills because Rodriguez didn't dare let Scott take a hit.

Scott, who has started five games in his career, has to stay healthy. Every other quarterback on the roster is new to the program; none has thrown a pass in a college game.

Rodriguez mostly shrugged this spring when asked about the progress of players or position groups, but he did have kind words about the running backs.

Sophomore Ka'Deem Carey, tough and fast enough, has star potential. Carey, the

Ka'Deem Carey
Photo by Christian Petersen/Getty Images

WILDCATS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
1	Ademola Adeniran	WR	5-7	160	So.	Phoenix
12	R.J. Aguero	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	Laredo, TX
27	Jamar Allah	CB	6-1	190	Fr.	Phoenix
14	Javelle Allen	QB	6-2	204	Fr.	Prosper, TX
74	Jacob Arzouman	OL	6-4	272	Fr.	Tucson
20	Stephen Ascher	S	6-1	192	Fr.	Newport Beach, CA
92	Dominique Austin	DE	6-4	252	Sr.	La Puente, CA
54	Addison Bachman	C/G	6-4	297	Sr.	Glendora, CA
23	Jared Baker	RB	5-8	192	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
67	Jack Baucus	OT	6-6	290	Jr.	Mundelein, IL
68	Mickey Baucus	OT	6-8	290	So.	Mundelein, IL
69	Eric Bender-Ramsay	OL	6-6	333	So.	Carson, CA
8	Jarrell Bennett	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
72	Trace Biskin	OG	6-5	282	Sr.	Westlake Village, CA
15	John Bonano	K	6-0	216	Sr.	Salinas, CA
21	Tra'Mayne Bondurant	S	5-10	208	So.	Fairfield, CA
65	Beau Boyster	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	Placentia, CA
46	Blake Brady	DB	5-11	196	So.	Orange, CA
4	Dan Buckner	WR	6-4	214	Sr.	Allen, TX
61	Cayman Bundage	OL	6-2	285	Fr.	Oklahoma City
40	Keoni Bush-Loo	TE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ewa Beach, HI
2	Kylan Butler	RB	5-7	186	Jr.	Antioch, CA
5	Michael Canahai	K	6-0	170	Fr.	Riverside, CA
15	Wayne Capers, Jr.	ATH	6-1	205	Fr.	Pittsburgh, PA
19	Alex Cappellini	QB	6-3	189	So.	Phoenix
25	Ka'Deem Carey	RB	5-10	203	So.	Tucson
63	Brian Chacon	C	6-3	270	Jr.	Long Beach, CA
51	Kyle Combs	LB	6-1	223	Fr.	Scottsdale
23	Dakota Conwell	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Pittsburgh, PA
83	Michael Cooper	TE	6-5	240	So.	The Woodlands, TX
88	Dylan Cozens	DE	6-5	235	Fr.	Scottsdale
9	Tyler D'Amore	QB	6-1	193	So.	Tucson
93	Lamar De Rego	DL	6-2	250	Sr.	Waimea, HI
9	C.J. Dozier	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Temecula, CA
13	Kyle Dugandzic	P	6-0	195	Sr.	Agoura, CA
73	Fabbians Ebbele	OT	6-8	310	So.	Chicago, IL
47	Josh Elias	LS	6-0	195	So.	San Jose, CA
49	Trevor Ermisch	WR	6-2	184	So.	Phoenix
56	Tyler Ermisch	DE	6-3	225	Jr.	Phoenix
64	Faitele Faafoi	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Tustin, CA
33	Jake Fischer	LB	5-11	215	Jr.	Oro Valley
2	Marquis Flowers	S	6-3	221	Jr.	Phoenix
81	Clive Georges	WR	6-1	160	Fr.	Key West, FL
84	Reggie Gilbert	DE	6-3	254	So.	Laveen
58	Devin Gordon	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Mesa
50	Chase Gorham	LS	6-2	260	So.	Scottsdale
26	Jourdon Grandon	CB	6-0	186	So.	Avondale
5	Trey Griffey	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	Orlando, FL
70	T.D. Gross	OT	6-6	255	Fr.	Lakeside, CA
12	Adam Hall	S	6-4	213	Jr.	Tucson
44	Rob Hankins	LB	6-1	218	So.	Dallas, TX
1	Bryan Harper	ATH	6-0	180	Fr.	Ontario, CA
65	Zach Hemmila	OL	6-3	275	Fr.	Chandler
29	Austin Hill	WR	6-3	211	So.	Corona, CA
19	Hank Hobson	LB	6-2	224	So.	Bakersfield, CA
98	Tevin Hood	DT	6-0	302	Jr.	Chandler
	Cody Ippolito	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Paradise Valley
30	Johnny Jackson	WR	5-10	180	Fr.	San Diego, CA
53	Sir Thomas Jackson	LB	5-11	215	Fr.	Seattle, WA
3	Daniel Jenkins	RB	5-9	195	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA
4	Cortez Johnson	CB	6-2	196	So.	New Orleabs, LA
49	Tim Johnston	LS	6-3	215	Fr.	Piedmont, CA
27	Terris Jones	RB	5-7	177	Jr.	Long Beach, CA
99	Kyle Kelley	DE	6-3	230	Fr.	Irvine, CA
17	Josh Kern	QB	6-5	200	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
60	Carter Lees	OG	6-5	325	So.	Sugar Land, TX
28	Anthony Lopez	ATH	5-10	185	Fr.	Gilbert
18	David Lopez	LB	6-3	244	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
77	Lene Maiava	OL	6-5	277	Fr.	Tafuna, American Samoa
65	Luis Martinez	OG	6-4	307	Jr.	Tucson
6	Jonathan McKnight	CB	5-11	175	So.	River Ridge, LA
97	Dwight Melvin	DE	6-1	265	Fr.	Laveen
71	Chris Merrill	DE	6-2	274	Sr.	Scottsdale
36	Vince Miles	WR	6-1	189	Fr.	Mountain View, CA
18	Terrence Miller	TE	6-4	228	Sr.	Moreno Valley, CA
96	Willie Mobley	DT	6-2	270	Sr.	Eden Prairie, MN
14	Richard Morrison	WR	5-11	183	Jr.	Royce City, TX
52	Dame Ndiaye	DE	6-4	220	Fr.	San Diego, CA
34	Greg Nwoko	RB	6-1	237	Sr.	Pflugerville, TX
6	Patrick Onwuasor	WR	6-1	212	Fr.	Inglewood, CA
34	Jesse Ortiz	K	5-11	212	So.	Phoenix
35	Kyrel Parker	DB	6-0	194	So.	Apache Junction
11	William Parks	CB	6-0	175	Fr.	Philadelphia, PA
90	Dan Pettinato	DE	6-4	267	So.	Grass Valley, CA
62	Chris Putton	OG	6-4	282	Jr.	Glendale
76	Kyle Quinn	C	6-3	294	Sr.	Brentwood, CA
17	Derrick Rainey	CB	6-1	183	Jr.	Houston, TX
80	David Richards	WR	6-4	203	Fr.	Palmdale, CA
5	Shaquille Richardson	CB	6-1	188	Jr.	Carson, CA
39	Drew Riggleman	P	6-1	207	Fr.	Tucson
87	Drew Robinson	TE	6-5	257	Sr.	Coalville, UT
48	Jaime Salazar	K	6-0	207	Sr.	Garland, TX
86	Douglas Samuels	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	Camas, WA
21	Yamen Sanders	DB	6-4	190	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
48	Jared Sargent	LS	6-2	225	Fr.	Temecula, CA
10	Matt Scott	QB	6-3	197	Sr.	Corona, CA
11	Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	200	So.	Corona, CA
86	Jake Smith	K	6-2	204	Jr.	Elkins Park, PA
24	Connor Sohns	DB	5-11	185	So.	Tucson
79	Trent Spurgeon	OT	6-8	324	So.	Owasso, OK
37	Ben Sullivan	H-Back	6-1	221	Fr.	Tucson
75	Kirifi Taula	DT	6-4	282	So.	Garden Grove, CA
45	Elliott Taylor	RB	5-10	186	Jr.	San Diego, CA
38	Jared Tevis	S	5-10	198	So.	Tucson
8	Leo Thomas	DB	6-3	180	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
91	Sione Tuihalamaka	DT	6-2	275	Jr.	Inglewood, CA
31	Taimi Tutogi	H-Back	6-1	260	Sr.	Chula Vista, CA
94	Christian Upshaw	DE	6-2	247	Sr.	Phoenix
40	Brian Wagner	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Dayton, OH
95	Jowyn Ward	DT	6-2	282	Sr.	Katy, TX
32	J.T. Washington	RB	5-7	165	Fr.	Indialantic, FL
43	Justin Washington	DT	6-2	268	Jr.	Cypress, TX
7	Mark Watley	S	6-2	177	Sr.	Encino, CA
16	Garic Wharton	WR	5-11	163	So.	Las Vegas, NV
37	Sean Willet	WR	6-0	194	Jr.	Mission Viejo, CA
66	Carter Wood	OL	6-2	275	Fr.	Scottsdale
75	Shane Zink	OL	6-6	314	Sr.	Redding, CA

NOTEBOOK

The strength of the team might be the veteran coaching staff, which features six members off **Rich Rodriguez's** final staff at West Virginia in 2007. Four of the six were with him for three years at Michigan.

The nine assistant coaches have a combined 178 years of coaching experience.

"It was really pretty seamless," Rodriguez said of the coaching staff's transition.

The trust factor is huge, especially with defensive coordinator **Jeff Casteel**, who allows Rodriguez to focus on the offense.

"It's important that I have guys that I can completely turn everything over to. Jeff, I can do that with," Rodriguez said.

The only holdover from Mike Stoops' staff is offensive line coach **Robert Anae**, who immediately fit right in, Rodriguez said.

• Athletic director **Greg Byrne** created a buzz in late May when he announced that the team would, on special occasions, wear new copper helmets. Arizona wore white from 1981 to 2003 before Stoops introduced blue helmets in his rookie season.

UA put white helmets back in the rotation, starting with the 2009 Holiday Bowl.

The new copper topper is fine with Rodriguez.

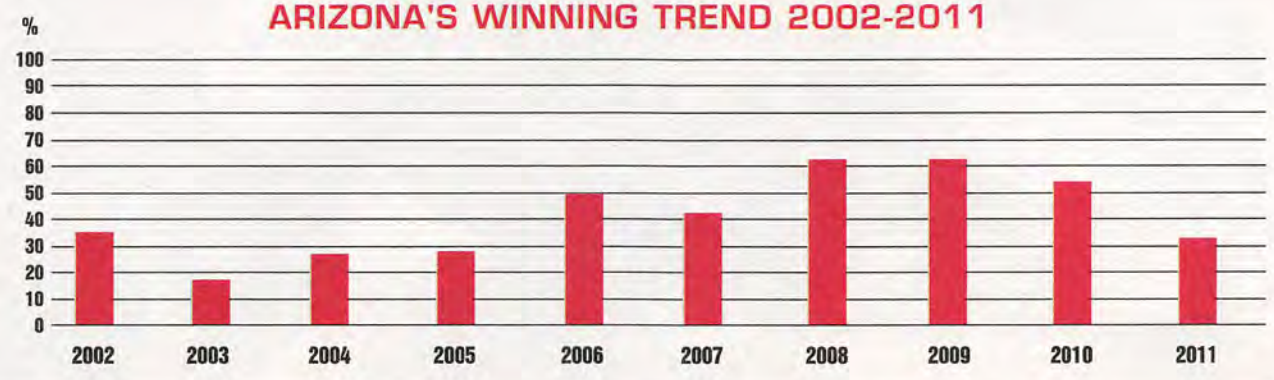
"It was presented to me, and they wanted to know if I would be in favor of it," he said. "I said, 'Sure.'"

• Construction started after last season on a $72 million north end zone project that will include a new football plant featuring the usual amenities — offices, locker room, weight room, etc. The project will help bring Arizona up to speed in the facilities race and should be a "game-changer," according to Rodriguez.

The project is set to be completed for the 2013 season, when the plan is to tear up the grass at Arizona Stadium and install FieldTurf. "I think the biggest advantage is we can use it every day," Rodriguez said. "We can use it for practice; guys can use it for workouts."

• Cornerback Cortez Johnson, who showed promise as a true freshman last season (when he wasn't limited by concussions), transferred in the spring. He will reunite with Mike Stoops, former defensive coordinator Tim Kish and former secondary coach Ryan Walters — who are all coaching at Oklahoma.

ARIZONA'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



gem of Mike Stoops' 2011 recruiting class, rushed 91 times for 425 yards and six scores last season. Junior Daniel Jenkins is a quick-cut back eager for a bigger opportunity. Taimi Tutogi is a punishing big-back option.

The receiving corps was gutted by graduation. Senior Dan Buckner needs to emerge as a bigger threat. Sophomore Tyler Slavin looked good in the spring, when Austin Hill, who played behind star Juron Criner last season, was sidelined by a neck injury.

Junior slot receiver Richard Morrison could end up as the second-string quarterback, but he didn't take as many reps there as he would have liked in the spring due to injury. Morrison, who arrived at Arizona as a dual-threat quarterback, will still see plenty of turns at receiver.

The starting line could return intact, assuming sophomore tackles Mickey Baucus (back surgery) and Fabbians Ebbele (suspension) can get up to speed in the fall with the new scheme.

DEFENSE

Rodriguez's biggest recruit was Jeff Casteel, his longtime defensive coordinator at West Virginia.

Casteel installed his unique 3-3-5 scheme this spring, and the different attacking angles should help a defense that had trouble generating pressure on its own last season, when the Wildcats had a scant 10 sacks.

Arizona is deep up front, but the mix-and-match possibilities won't be settled until fall.

Linebacker Jake Fischer, who returned this spring from an ACL injury, will be a centerpiece, the kind of player who, as Rodriguez says, "loves" playing football, not just "likes it." Akron graduate transfer Brian Wagner will man the middle.

"I played a little bit at Akron," said a smiling Wagner, who was second nationally in tackles last season with 13.6 per game. "Hopefully, I can help turn this program around."

There isn't much depth at linebacker, although early-enrollee true freshman C.J. Dozier looked too good in the spring to redshirt. He should at least have a role on special teams.

The five-man secondary is thin, made worse when safety Adam Hall, who was trying to return from a 2011 ACL injury, suffered another torn ACL in the spring game. Sophomore Tra'Mayne Bondurant, who emerged in the second half of last season, should be excellent in the playmaking "Spur" safety spot.

A key player will be sophomore cornerback Jonathan McKnight, who was UA's best cornerback in 2011 fall camp before tearing an ACL. As of late May, he was on pace to join summer workouts. A rotation of McKnight, junior Shaquille Richardson and junior Derrick Rainey should be solid against Pac-12 passing attacks.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kickoff man John Bonano stepped in

Dan Buckner
Photo by Dave Sizer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 94.5 ypg rushing (11th in Pac-12/114th NCAA), 370.8 passing (1st/3rd), 465.3 total offense (3rd/16th), 30.8 ppg (6th/38th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Matt Scott	Sr.	Dual threat's skill and health are key to entire season.	Richard Morrison, Jr.
RB	Ka'Deem Carey	So.	Potential game-breaker with a nose for the end zone.	Daniel Jenkins, Jr.
RB	Taimi Tutogi*	Sr.	His power will be valuable as runner and blocker.	Kylan Butler, Jr.
WR	Tyler Slavin	So.	Capped good spring with three TDs in scrimmage.	David Richards, Fr.
WR	Dan Buckner	Sr.	Needs to be big threat; 42 catches for 606 yards in '11.	Austin Hill, So.
WR	Garic Wharton	So.	RichRod can use Wharton's speed inside or outside.	Terrence Miller, Sr.
RT	Fabbians Ebbele*	So.	Suspended for spring, but was on pace to return.	Eric Bender-Ramsay, Jr.
RG	Trace Biskin*	Sr.	Started the final 10 games of last season.	Lene Maiava, Fr.
C	Kyle Quinn*	Sr.	Big omission: Not on 50-deep watch list for Rimington.	Addison Bachman, Sr.
LG	Chris Putton*	Jr.	Saw time at LT this spring with Mickey Baucus out.	Shane Zink, Sr.
LT	Mickey Baucus*	So.	Should be good for camp after offseason back surgery.	Chris Putton, Jr.
K	John Bonano*	Sr.	Took over at midseason last year, hit from 47 yards.	Jake Smith, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 161.6 ypg rushing (8th in Pac-12/67th NCAA), 298.9 passing (12th/119th), 460.5 total defense (12th/110th), 35.4 ppg (10th/107th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Dan Pettinato	So.	There will be lots of competition here in fall camp.	Jowyn Ward, Sr.
DT	Sione Tuihalamaka*	Jr.	Not the heaviest of DTs for a 3-4 front.	Willie Mobley, Sr.
DE	Justin Washington	Jr.	Injuries and illness led to a sophomore slump.	Reggie Gilbert, So.
LB	Jake Fischer	Jr.	High-motor LB had 58 tackles, 7.5 TFLs in 2010.	C.J. Dozier, Fr.
LB	Brian Wagner	Sr.	He led Akron in tackles in each of past three years.	Rob Hankins, So.
LB	Hank Hobson	So.	Got his feet wet as a true freshman last year.	David Lopez, Sr.
CB	Jonathan McKnight	So.	Feisty and physical in 2011 camp before ACL tear.	Derrick Rainey, Jr.
CB	Shaquille Richardson*	Jr.	A full offseason of health should pay dividends.	Derrick Rainey, Jr.
S	Tra'Mayne Bondurant*	So.	"Spur" position will let him make plays in backfield.	Jourdon Grandon, So.
S	Marquis Flowers*	Jr.	Made 68 tackles, started nine games, in 2011.	B. Brady, So./V. Miles, Fr.
S	Jared Tevis	So.	Undersized walk-on; Rodriguez loves his passion.	Mark Watley, Sr.
P	Kyle Dugandzic*	Sr.	JC transfer had fine first year (46.0-yard average).	Drew Riggleman, Fr.

*Returning Starter

WILDCATS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jamar Allah	DB	6-1	190	★★	Phoenix, AZ	North Canyon
Had 34 tackles and one interception as a senior…Chose Arizona over Arizona State, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming.						
Javelle Allen	QB	6-2	204	★★★	Prosper, TX	Prosper
Passed for 2,321 yards and 30 touchdowns and rushed for 1,497 yards and 22 scores as a senior…Chose Arizona over FAU.						
Jarrell Bennett	WR	5-9	160	★★★	New Orleans, LA	Edna Karr
Caught 31 passes for 367 yards and three touchdowns as a senior…Earned all-district honors as a junior and senior.						
Beau Boyster	OL	6-4	275	★★★	Bellflower, CA	St. John Bosco
Rated as the No. 67 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 4 offensive center.						
Cayman Bundage	OL	6-2	285	★★★	Oklahoma City, OK	Douglass
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 44 offensive guard.						
Keoni Bush-Loo	TE	6-4	240	★★	Honolulu, HI	Kamehameha School
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Arizona over Army, Hawaii, Idaho, Nebraska and Washington.						
Wayne Capers, Jr.	WR	6-1	205	★★★	Bridgeville, PA	Chartiers Valley
Rated as the No. 22 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals.com…Played quarterback, linebacker and receiver in high school.						
Dakota Conwell	LB	6-2	205	★★★	Pittsburgh, PA	Upper St. Clair
Rated as the No. 29 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals.com…Chose Arizona over Maryland, Pittsburgh, Temple and Toledo…Participated in the Chesapeake Bowl.						
Dylan Cozens	DE	6-5	235	★★★	Scottsdale, AZ	Chaparral
Recorded 45 tackles and 7.5 sacks as a senior…Also played baseball and basketball in high school.						
C.J. Dozier	LB	6-2	210	★★★	Temecula, CA	Chaparral
Rated as the No. 64 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 54 outside linebacker…Enrolled at Arizona in January.						
Clive Georges	WR	6-1	160	★★★	Key West, FL	Key West
Had 450 receiving yards and 250 rushing yards as a senior…Also ran track and played basketball.						
Trey Griffey	WR	6-2	190	★★★	Orlando, FL	Dr. Phillips
Earned first-team all-state honors as a senior…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
T.D. Gross	OL	6-6	255	★★	Santee, CA	Santana
First-team all-league selection…Played tight end as a junior and caught 25 passes for 277 yards and three touchdowns…Also played basketball.						
Bryan Harper	ATH	6-0	180	★★★	Ontario, CA	Colony
Rated as the No. 96 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Helped lead team to an 11-2 record as a senior.						
Zach Hemmila	OL	6-3	275	★★★★	Chandler, AZ	Chandler
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 15 offensive guard.						
Cody Ippolito	LB	6-2	210	★★	Scottsdale, AZ	Chaparral
Recorded 109 tackles, two sacks and four pass breakups as a senior…Had 64 tackles as a junior.						
Kyle Kelley	DE	6-3	230	★★★★	Irvine, CA	Woodbridge
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 30 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 13 strongside defensive end.						
Josh Kern	QB	6-5	200	★★★	San Antonio, TX	Tom C Clark
Threw for 1,020 yards and seven touchdowns and rushed for 369 yards and seven scores as a junior.						
Anthony Lopez	RB	5-10	185	★★★	Gilbert, AZ	Mesquite
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 40 running back.						
Dwight Melvin	DE	6-1	265	★★★	Laveen, AZ	Fairfax
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 29 strongside defensive end.						
William Parks	DB	6-0	175	★★★	Philadelphia, PA	Germantown
Rated as the No. 28 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals.com…Participated in the Chesapeake Bowl.						
Yamen Sanders	DB	6-4	190	★★	Culver City, CA	Culver City
Recorded 90 tackles as a senior and had 32 tackles as a junior…Chose Arizona over Arizona State.						
Leo Thomas	DB	6-3	180	★★★	San Antonio, TX	Sam Houston
Earned all-district honors on offense and defense as a senior…Had 50 tackles and seven interceptions in 2011.						
J.T. Washington	ATH	5-7	165	★★★	Satellite Beach, FL	Satellite
Had 1,200 rushing yards and 900 receiving yards as a senior…Participated in the Brevard County All-Star Game.						

A LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

RESULTS

4-8, 2-7

W	NORTHERN ARIZONA	41-10
L	at Oklahoma State	14-37
L	STANFORD	10-37
L	OREGON	31-56
L	at USC	41-48
L	at Oregon State	27-37
W	UCLA	48-12
L	at Washington	31-42
L	UTAH	21-34
L	at Colorado	29-48
W	at Arizona State	31-27
W	LOUISIANA	45-37

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
N. Foles	12	387	560	14	69.1	4334	28
B. Beirne	5	11	17	1	64.7	115	1

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
K. Antolin	12	126	568	4.5	5	31	47.3
K. Carey	11	91	425	4.7	6	33	38.6
D. Jenkins	10	31	176	5.7	2	34	17.6

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Criner	11	75	956	12.7	11	48	86.9
D. Douglas	12	65	666	10.2	4	44	55.5
G. Crump	12	65	610	9.4	2	47	50.8

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: K. Earls 74, P. Vassallo 70, R. Golden 69
Tackles for loss: D. Earls 7, C.J. Parish 5.5, P. Vassallo 5
Sacks: C.J. Parish 3, seven tied with 1
Interceptions: S. Richardson 4, T. Wade 2, five tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	TOLEDO	9-4
Sept. 8	OKLAHOMA STATE	12-1
Sept. 15	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	7-4
Sept. 22	at Oregon	12-2
Sept. 29	OREGON STATE	3-9
Oct. 6	at Stanford	11-2
Oct. 20	WASHINGTON	7-6
Oct. 27	USC	10-2
Nov. 3	at UCLA	6-8
Nov. 10	COLORADO	3-10
Nov. 17	at Utah	8-5
Nov. 23	ARIZONA STATE	6-7

PLAYER PROFILE

Matt Scott
Photo by Chris Coduto/Icon SMI

'Hungry' Senior Fits New Offense to a T

In coach Rich Rodriguez's first year at Michigan, he ended up with walk-on quarterback Nick Sheridan and a passer, Steven Threet, ill-suited for his read-option offense.

His first-year situation at Arizona is much more promising.

Senior Matt Scott is a gift from the previous coaching staff, which redshirted Scott behind Nick Foles last season. Scott, who ran a version of this attack in high school and has the wheels to make it work, will help the Cats get through the gears of the offense as quickly as can be reasonably expected.

"I shouldn't expect too much in the first year in the system," Rodriguez said, "but with Matt Scott, I'm going to expect a lot."

Scott's passing accuracy and arm strength improved in the past two years under the tutelage of former quarterbacks coach Frank Scelfo, but it's his dual-threat ability that can make the offense soar.

Scott should be a better passer than Rodriguez's last two star pupils — West Virginia's Pat White and Michigan's Denard Robinson.

Scott calls playing in the read-option getting back to his "natural roots."

"It's going to be really hard with the backs we have — me running and them running — for the defense to cover that," he said. "I don't even think it's possible."

He wasn't able to show much of that running ability in the spring because he was off limits to contact in an effort to keep him healthy. When the games begin, Scott will be especially dangerous when making plays on the outside.

The former coaching staff considered him an athletic quarterback, not an athlete playing quarterback. Rodriguez saw enough in the spring to be impressed with the whole package.

"I think he's hungry," Rodriguez said. "Being a fifth-year senior, he's hungry to have a great year, to be that guy in charge of the offense. I'm really pleased with his progress."

Scott started the first three games of the 2009 season before losing his job to Foles, who's now with the Philadelphia Eagles. Scott also filled in for two-and-a-half games when Foles was injured in 2010. During that time, Scott deferred to Foles as the team leader, but he's ready for that responsibility, too.

"I enjoy working with Matt because he's serious every day about what he does," said running back Daniel Jenkins. "Everyone on the team respects him a lot. He demands that kind of presence as a leader."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Matt Scott

The fifth-year senior gets his chance to shine as the undisputed leader of the offense; Arizona doesn't have another QB who has thrown a pass at this level. ... Could be the best passer Rich Rodriguez has had since helping coach Shaun King at Tulane in the late 1990s. ... Career passing numbers: 114 of 176 for 1,301 yards, with six touchdowns and five interceptions. ... Has rushed for 632 yards on 99 carries. ... Threw for a career-high 319 yards in a win over UCLA in 2010.

EMERGING STAR

DB Tra'Mayne Bondurant

Was barely used as a true freshman until after the firing of Mike Stoops at midseason. Interim coach Tim Kish decided to use Bondurant in a playmaking rover position, with superb results. ... He ended with 45 tackles, including 3.5 for loss, six pass break-ups, an interception and a forced fumble. ... He's a passionate player who earned honorable mention all-conference honors despite basically only appearing in the second half of the season.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Brian Wagner

The graduate student transfer from Akron is exactly what Arizona needed in a thin, inexperienced linebacker corps. ... He is the nation's leading returning tackler (13.4 per game) and is smart and savvy. He'll have to adjust, though, to the speed of the Pac-12. ... Earned All-MAC honors last season and made 277 tackles in the past two years. ... Was in on 15 stops in last season's opener against Ohio State. ... He is studying biostatistics for his graduate work at Arizona.

at midseason to stabilize the placekicking (8 of 12 on field-goal attempts), although he was challenged this spring by walk-on Jake Smith, who has stops at Syracuse and Youngstown State. That competition will continue in the fall.

Punter Kyle Dugandzic averaged 46.0 yards per punt last season. The return game will get further sorted out in camp.

Overall, Rodriguez has to clean up special teams, which has been a comedy of errors with poor coverage, failed fakes and falling victim to opponents' trick plays.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Rodriguez inherits a favorable schedule that includes eight home games for only the second time in school history.

After being embarrassed by Oklahoma State in back-to-back years — in the Alamo Bowl and in Stillwater — the Wildcats will be looking to turn the tables in Tucson in the second week of the season. That's a good time to get the Cowboys, who ended spring practice with a true freshman as the starting quarterback. Arizona will be happy to not see quarterback Brandon Weeden and receiver Justin Blackmon again.

Arizona has only four Pac-12 road games, but the first two are killers — Oregon and Stanford. The Cats don't have the speed to match the Ducks, and they likely don't have the power to handle the Cardinal, considering Rodriguez bemoaned the team's overall lack of strength in the spring.

The Cats finish at home against Arizona State, having won three of the past four in the series. The teams have won on each other's home field in the past two years.

— Anthony Gimino

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

For more coverage of the Sun Devils, visit arizonastate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Norvell **DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Paul Randolph, Ron West** **STADIUM: Sun Devil Stadium: 71,706**

AT A GLANCE

2011:
6-7, 4-5 Pac-12 (T-3rd, South)

COACH:
Todd Graham — At Arizona State: 1st year; overall: 49-29, 6 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
10; 4 offense, 4 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Mike Bercovici, QB Michael Eubank, RB Cameron Marshall, WR Jamal Miles, LT Evan Finkenberg, DT Will Sutton, LB Brandon Magee, CB Osahon Irabor

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Marshall should be one of the Pac-12's top talents, leading a deep group of running backs. Miles is a threat every time he touches the ball, both on offense and special teams. Expect ASU to get creative in getting him touches. Magee adds speed and leadership to a young defense; Irabor has all-conference potential.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The quarterbacks will learn as they go. The receivers, outside of Miles, are inconsistent and unproven. The Sun Devils also are thin at linebacker.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Brock Osweiler, WR Gerell Robinson, WR Aaron Pflugrad, C Garth Gerhart, OT Dan Knapp, DE Jamaar Jarrett, LB Vontaze Burfict, CB Omar Bolden, S Clint Floyd

OVERVIEW:
The Sun Devils did well adapting to Graham's disciplined approach in the spring, but this is a team with a lot of questions. The new quarterback will need time to grow. The defense will need time to adjust to a new scheme. As a result, expectations won't be high. Still, Graham can win over fans by reducing penalties and pulling off a surprise or two.

Graham Brings Discipline, Run Game to Sun Devils

Arizona State fans won't soon forget the 2011 season. The way it started, and the way it spiraled out of control.

One month, coach Dennis Erickson looked forward to a contract extension, with the Sun Devils positioned to represent the Pac-12 South Division in the inaugural Pac-12 Championship Game. The next month, he was fired.

The Sun Devils lost their final five games. Their season-ending loss to Boise State in the Maaco Las Vegas Bowl dropped them to 6-7, their fourth non-winning season in a row.

President Michael Crow hired Todd Graham to clean up the mess, but first the coach had to clean up his own. Local and national media ripped Graham for bolting from Pittsburgh after one season and for not meeting with players before he boarded a plane for the desert.

Graham spent the first few weeks in Tempe defending his decision. He told reporters that his family wasn't happy in Pittsburgh, that he and wife Penny always had dreamed of living in Arizona and that he always had admired former ASU coach Frank Kush.

Graham's first task: Installing discipline.

Under Erickson, this never had been a strong point. Out of 120 FBS teams, the Sun Devils had finished 109th or worse the last four years in penalty yards per game, twice finishing last. Perhaps as a result: ASU lost four games by a combined nine points in 2010 and three by a combined eight last season.

The changes: No jewelry worn in the football offices. No hats. No headphones. Pants pulled up to the waist. Shirts tucked. The locker room cleaned. In the weight room, the Sun Devils had to wear the same shoes, socks, shirts and shorts.

"The biggest (differences from last year) are discipline and rules," senior linebacker Brandon Magee said. "And you don't want to break the rules."

OFFENSE

The big question: Who replaces quarterback Brock Osweiler? Last season, the 6-7 junior broke several school passing records before leaving school early and becoming a second-round NFL Draft pick of the Denver Broncos.

ASU has talent at quarterback, just not experience. Sophomores Mike Bercovici and Taylor Kelly, as well as redshirt freshman Michael Eubank, have yet to start a collegiate contest. Bercovici, Osweiler's backup as a true freshman, and Kelly each played in two games.

Throughout spring practice, Graham split first-team reps among the trio, but none stood out enough to win the job. Bercovici is the best passer and has a firm command of the offense. Eubank (6-5, 242) is raw as a passer, but his running talents might best fit Graham's offense. Kelly runs and passes well, but lacks the potential of his teammates.

"I went into the spring thinking this was a group I could have confidence in," Graham said. "I (came) out of spring knowing I've got confidence in them."

Graham isn't opposed to using two quarterbacks, but he'd like one to emerge early in fall camp.

One thing that might make the transition easier: The Sun Devils plan to run often next season, so whoever wins the job might not feel intense pressure.

The backfield is crowded. Senior Cameron Marshall (1,050 rushing yards, 18 rushing touchdowns last season) is the focal point, assuming he recovers from minor ankle surgery that sidelined him most of the spring. Senior James Morrison thrived in Marshall's absence, earning the nickname "Tank."

Junior Kyle Middlebrooks and sophomore Deantre Lewis also will get chances, although Lewis still hasn't fully recovered from a gunshot wound that kept him out last season. Other options include newcom-

Jamal Miles
Photo by Ric Tapia/Icon SMI

SUN DEVILS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
68	Corey Adams	DT	6-3	273	Sr.	Scottsdale
	Keith Agee	RB	5-9	185	Fr.	Wayne, MI
	Alonzo Agwuenu	WR	6-4	210	Jr.	Chino Hills, CA
58	Sil Ajawara	OL	6-3	292	So.	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
37	Dante Alexander	RB	5-9.5	200	So.	Chandler
19	Kevin Anderson	WR	5-9	177	So.	Lakewood, CA
19	Kevin Ayers	S	6-0	202	Sr.	Lynwood, CA
91	Cutter Baldock	DE	6-4	211	Fr.	Tigard, OR
57	Charles Beatty	DE	5-11	224	Sr.	Phoenix
2	Mike Bercovici	QB	6-1	202	So.	Calabasas, CA
22	Ezekiel Bishop	DB	5-10	191	Fr.	Denver, CO
	Josiah Blandin	WR	6-4	185	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
52	Carl Bradford	LB	6-0	240	So.	Norco, CA
26	Dwain Bradshaw	S	6-1	210	Jr.	
84	Jarrid Bryant	WR	6-5	174	Jr.	Salisbury, CT
95	Sean Buizer	PK	6-0	190	Fr.	Scottsdale
	Jordan Burke	PK	6-3	202	So.	Sedona
48	Alex Bykovskiy	TE	6-1	226	Fr.	Federal Way, WA
1	Deveron Carr	CB	5-11	193	Sr.	Scottsdale
81	Gary Chambers	WR	6-3	191	Fr.	Glendale
28	Danny Clark	RB	6-1	207	Fr.	Scottsdale
43	Davon Coleman	DE	6-3	262	Jr.	Cleveland, OH
95	Gannon Conway	DE	6-4	253	Jr.	Higley
87	Chris Coyle	TE	6-3	230	Jr.	Westlake Village, CA
4	Alden Darby	S	5-10	187	Jr.	Long Beach, CA
	Terrell Davis	RB	6-0	215	Fr.	Victoria, B.C., Canada
74	Jamil Douglas	OL	6-4	284	So.	Cypress, CA
30	Anthony Duran	WR	5-11	170	Jr.	Gilbert
14	Joe Eason	CB	5-11	188	Fr.	Pahokee, FL
18	Michael Eubank	QB	6-5	242	Fr.	Corona, CA
21	Tevin Favor	WR	6-2	196	So.	Colombus, OH
62	Evan Finkenberg	OL	6-6	299	Jr.	Coto De Caza, CA
	Salamo Fiso	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
94	Parker Flynn	PK	5-11	195	So.	Orange, CA
63	Aristacus Forster	OL	6-3	269	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
	D.J. Foster	RB	6-0	190	Fr.	Scottsdale
57	Jason Franklin	LB	6-2	212	So.	West Hills, CA
88	Josh Fulton	TE	6-5	251	Fr.	Phoenix
16	Steve Gallon	CB	5-10	161	Sr.	Miami, FL
25	Alex Garoutte	PK	6-1	192	So.	Phoenix
56	Devin Goodman	OL	6-2	273	Fr.	Lakeland, FL
	Evan Goodman	OL	6-4	290	Fr.	Lakeland, FL
	Marion Grice	RB	6-0	215	Jr.	Houston, TX
80	J.J. Holliday	WR	6-0	168	Jr.	Tucson
85	Karl Holmes	WR	6-3	179	Fr.	Pasadena, CA
	Jaxon Hood	DL	6-1	290	Fr.	Chandler
47	Josh Hubner	P	6-4	231	Sr.	Scottsdale
24	Osahon Irabor	CB	5-11	176	Jr.	Upland, CA
53	Brandon Johnson	LB	6-2	207	Jr.	Oakland, CA
10	Keelan Johnson	S	6-0	202	Sr.	Mesa
78	Kyle Johnson	OL	6-7	284	Sr.	Norco, CA
	Oliver Johnson	WR	6-2	200	Jr.	Woodland Hills, CA
31	Anthony Jones	LB	6-2	218	Jr.	Chandler
	Milo Jordan	DL	6-2	275	Fr.	Corona, CA
10	Taylor Kelly	QB	6-1	214	So.	Eagle, ID
35	Ronald Kennedy, Jr.	CB	5-10	179	So.	Cerritos, CA
91	Matt Kirwan	PK	6-1	210	Fr.	San Diego, CA
83	Randy Knust	WR	6-2	195	So.	The Woodlands, TX
67	Kody Koebensky	OL	6-4	294	Jr.	Scottsdale
	Kody Kohl	TE	6-3	220	Fr.	Gilbert
46	Kipeli Koniseti	LB	6-3	243	Jr.	Sacramento, CA
76	Mo Latu	DE	6-3	330	Fr.	Gilbert
12	Danny Lewis	QB	6-4	200	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
5	Deantre Lewis	RB	5-10	193	So.	Norco, CA
8	Brandon Magee	LB	5-11	230	Sr.	Corona, CA
6	Cameron Marshall	RB	5-11	223	Sr.	San Jose, CA
38	Isreal Marshall	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	Phoenix
	Steffon Martin	LB	6-2	230	Jr.	Indianapolis, IN
23	Daniel Masifilo	WR	6-2	206	So.	Ewa Beach, HI
89	Chike Mbanefo	WR	5-9	174	So.	Mission Hills, CA
	Stephon McCray	OL	6-4	300	Fr.	Fresno, CA
29	Shane McCullen	S	6-2	194	Jr.	Apache Junction
49	Jordan McDonald	DE	6-4	228	So.	Scottsdale
	William McGehee	OL	6-6	300	So.	Plano, TX
	Carlos Mendoza	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Oxnard, CA
7	Kyle Middlebrooks	WR	5-8	182	Jr.	Fountain Valley, CA
32	Jamal Miles	WR	5-10	180	Sr.	Peoria
51	David Moala	DL	6-1	318	Fr.	Gardena, CA
	Viliami Moeakiola	S	6-1	205	Fr.	Euless, TX
22	James Morrison	RB	5-11	214	Sr.	Phoenix
39	Robert Nelson	CB	5-10	167	Jr.	Suwanee, GA
59	Derrick Nsubuga	DL	6-0	255	Jr.	Scottsdale
93	Sean O'Grady	DL	6-3	238	Fr.	Las Flores, CA
5	Junior Onyeali	DE	5-11	245	Jr.	Denver, CO
82	Kevin Ozier	WR	6-0	200	Jr.	San Diego, CA
	Mike Pennel	DL	6-5	340	Jr.	Aurora, CO
9	A.J. Pickens	WR	5-10	168	Sr.	Chino, CA
35	R.J. Robinson	RB	5-8	178	Jr.	Glendale
	Darwin Rogers	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	Chicago, IL
15	Rashad Ross	WR	6-0	174	Sr.	Vallejo, CA
	Matthew Rowe	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
72	Andrew Sampson	OL	6-3	304	Sr.	Aurora, CO
79	Chip Sarafin	OL	6-6	357	So.	Gilbert
71	Brice Schwab	OL	6-7	303	Sr.	West Sunbury, PA
	Jake Sheffield	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Denver, CO
17	Greg Smith	DE	6-3	255	Sr.	Perris, CA
44	Max Smith	TE	6-2	252	Jr.	Scottsdale
	Richard Smith	WR	5-9	161	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
25	Devan Spann	CB	5-11	164	So.	Gardena, CA
54	Tyler Sulka	OL	6-4	273	So.	Sherman Oaks, CA
90	Will Sutton	DT	6-2	270	Jr.	Corona, CA
56	Grandville Taylor	LB	6-0	223	Jr.	San Francisco, CA
99	Joita Te'i	DL	6-4	274	So.	Oceanside, CA
73	Vi Teofilo	OL	6-3	306	Fr.	Phoenix
12	Matthew Tucker	LB	6-1	206	Jr.	Aurora, CO
96	Toa Tuitea	DE	6-3	274	Sr.	Westminster, CA
13	Rashad Wadood	CB	5-10	178	So.	Long Beach, CA
	Easton Wahlstrom	LS/OL	6-2	231	Fr.	Scottsdale
20	Marcus Washington	RB	5-11	212	So.	Phoenix
	Chris Young	S	6-2	220	Jr.	Seattle, WA

NOTEBOOK

In April, ASU announced a "Return to Camp T" fund-raising campaign that would send the team to Camp Tontozona, a mountain property near Payson that served as a preseason training site for the football team for 48 years.

The school needed $150,000 to return, but coach **Todd Graham** didn't think it would be an issue. The Sun Devils haven't trained at Tontozona since Dennis Erickson's first season in 2007, but Graham realized a return is important to former players and former coach Frank Kush.

• A position battle to watch in the fall is at center. Junior **Kody Koebensky** lined up with the first-team during spring drills, but redshirt freshman **Mo Latu** made a strong push. Latu last season played as a defensive tackle on ASU's scout team, but he played center in high school and was rated No. 2 at that position by Rivals.com.

• Senior running back **James Morrison** was one of the spring's top performers, which wasn't unusual. Morrison has had strong springs in the past, but they've never translated into more carries in the fall. Graham insists that won't be the case this time.

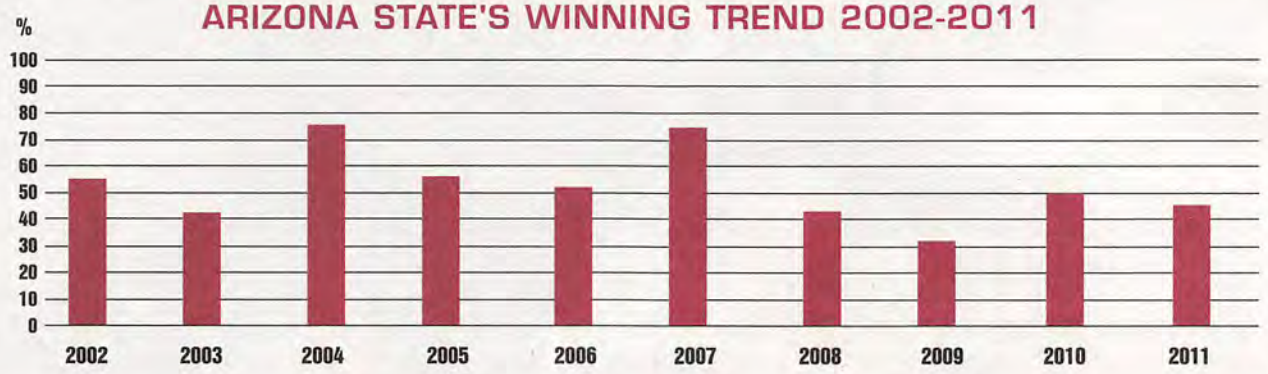
"He likes the physicalness of the game. He likes to run the ball downhill," Graham said. "He's very coachable. He's tough. There's no way you can keep that guy off the field."

• Senior defensive tackle **Corey Adams** missed the start of spring drills because of a calf injury. Injuries have plagued Adams throughout his career. This time, however, Adams rebounded and finished strong. Graham called him a force. "Everyone else had two or three weeks on me, but I think I adjusted well," Adams said.

• Senior **Brice Schwab** has had a rocky ASU career. A top junior college transfer in 2009, Schwab started the first four games in 2010, but then was benched. Last season, he redshirted and dedicated himself to getting into better shape. He lost nearly 50 pounds. This season, he's the starter at right tackle.

"Brice has been a pleasant surprise," offensive line coach **Bob Connelly** said. "I love his attitude. He's a tough kid, a really, really hard worker ... (but) he's got to build some mental toughness."

ARIZONA STATE'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



ers Marion Grice, considered a top junior college running back, and D.J. Foster, the jewel of Graham's first recruiting class.

The offensive line isn't deep, but Graham called it a pleasant surprise. A potential weak spot: Receivers. ASU lost three of its top four from last season. Outside of senior Jamal Miles, no one showed much playmaking ability in the spring.

DEFENSE

ASU plans to use an attacking, multiple-front scheme, but will have to rely on several inexperienced players to pull it off. Among the departed from last season: Linebackers Vontaze Burfict and Shelly Lyons, defensive linemen Jamaar Jarrett and Bo Moos, and defensive backs Eddie Elder and Clint Floyd.

The Sun Devils, however, do have a building block in senior linebacker Brandon Magee. Much attention went to Burfict last season, but during fall camp, former defensive coordinator Craig Bray singled out Magee as the unit's best player. Three days later, Magee ruptured an Achilles' tendon and was lost for the year.

Magee participated in non-contract drills during the spring, but promised to be 100 percent in the fall. He's expected to move inside in ASU's 3-4 scheme, a switch from previous years when he played outside. No other linebacker on ASU's roster has started a game at linebacker.

Junior Anthony Jones and sophomore Carl Bradford likely will start on the outside, with junior Kipeli Koniseti or junior college transfer Steffon Martin helping out on the inside. Juniors Brandon Johnson and Grandville Taylor also should contribute.

Junior Onyeali, a junior, also is in the mix as an outside linebacker/defensive end. The 2010 Pac-10 Defensive Freshman of the Year, Onyeali is expected to join the team in the fall after missing spring practice because of a suspension that stemmed from an incident with Dennis Erickson.

Junior Will Sutton and senior Corey Adams anchor the defensive line, a group Graham calls the defense's best. Adams, heavily recruited out of Scottsdale Saguaro High, has failed to reach his potential because of injuries. Junior college transfer Mike Pennel also is expected to contribute.

Junior cornerback Osahon Irabor started every game last season and was one of the spring's top performers. The former four-star is starting to reach the potential that stalled in his freshman season because of a hand injury. Opposite Irabor, senior Deveron Carr is a two-year starter, but he'll have to hold off Robert Nelson, a transfer from Louisiana-Monroe.

Alden Darby, a playmaker, teams with athletic senior Keelan Johnson at safety, although junior college transfer Chris Young could challenge in the fall.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jamal Miles is electric as a kickoff and punt returner. Last season, the senior

Osahon Irabor
Photo by Ric Tapia/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 129.1 ypg rushing (8th in Pac-12/85th NCAA), 316.7 passing (3rd/10th), 445.8 total offense (5th/25th), 33.2 ppg (5th/28th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Mike Bercovici	So.	Threw just three passes in mop-up duty last year.	Michael Eubank, Fr.
RB	Cameron Marshall*	Sr.	Packs power and speed; six career 100-yard games.	James Morrison, Sr.
HB	Chris Coyle	Jr.	Sure-handed receiver missed spring with injury.	Darwin Rogers, Jr.
WR	J.J. Holliday	Jr.	Strong push in the spring elevated him to first team.	Rashad Ross, Sr.
WR	Kevin Ozier	Jr.	Former walk-on earned scholarship in the offseason.	Gary Chambers, Fr.
WR	Jamal Miles*	Sr.	A dangerous threat on ground and through the air.	Kevin Anderson, So.
LT	Evan Finkenberg*	Jr.	Two-year starter combines athleticism, power.	Kyle Johnson, Sr.
LG	Jamil Douglas	So.	Future might be at tackle, but ASU needs him on field.	Sil Ajawara, So.
C	Kody Koebensky	Jr.	Replacing steady, durable Garth Gerhart.	Mo Latu, Fr.
RG	Andrew Sampson*	Sr.	Physical lineman has started 21 consecutive games.	Vi Teofilo, Fr.
RT	Brice Schwab	Sr.	Dropped nearly 50 pounds during redshirt 2011 season.	Tyler Sulka, So.
K	Alex Garoutte*	So.	Has a strong leg, but lacked consistency last season.	Sean Buizer, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 149.1 ypg rushing (6th in Pac-12/57th NCAA), 273.0 passing (10th/108th), 422.1 total defense (9th/91st), 28.6 ppg (6th/74th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Will Sutton*	Jr.	Passionate lineman with high motor and good quickness.	Jake Sheffield, Jr.
NT	Corey Adams	Sr.	Injuries have kept him from reaching potential.	Mike Pennel, Jr.
DE	Junior Onyeali*	Jr.	Expected to return to team after offseason suspension.	Toa Tuitea, Sr.
LB	Carl Bradford	So.	Versatile defender who will pressure the quarterback.	Greg Smith, Sr.
LB	Kipeli Koniseti	Jr.	Part of a young group needed to contribute right away.	Steffon Martin, Jr.
LB	Brandon Magee	Sr.	Needs to rebound in big way after missing last season.	Grandville Taylor, Jr.
LB	Anthony Jones	Jr.	Tons of athletic ability, just short on experience.	Matt Tucker, Jr.
CB	Osahon Irabor*	Jr.	Has all the tools to be a standout Pac-12 corner.	Rashad Wadood, So.
CB	Deveron Carr*	Sr.	Injuries have stunted progress past two seasons.	Robert Nelson, Jr.
SS	Alden Darby	Jr.	Second on team with three interceptions last year.	Ezekiel Bishop, Fr.
FS	Keelan Johnson	Sr.	Two TFLs, two picks and a fumble recovery last year.	Kevin Ayers, Sr.
P	Josh Hubner*	Sr.	Averaged 41.3 yards per punt; 24 inside the 20.	Alex Garoutte, So.

*Returning Starter

SUN DEVILS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Alonzo Agwuenu	WR	6-4	210	✪✪✪	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Caught 73 passes for 1,025 yards and 19 touchdowns in 2011…Chose Arizona State over Kentucky, Mississippi State, Nevada, Oregon State and others.						
Josiah Blandin	WR	6-4	185	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 80 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 89 wide receiver…Had 21 receptions for 329 yards and two touchdowns as a senior.						
Terrell Davis	RB	6-0	215	✪✪	Victoria, British Columbia	New Westminster
Rushed for 1,355 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Arizona State over Idaho and Washington State.						
Salamo Fiso	LB	6-1	220	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 63 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 26 inside linebacker…Chose Arizona State over Arizona and Colorado.						
D.J. Foster	ATH	6-0	190	✪✪✪✪	Scottsdale, AZ	Saguaro
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 5 athlete…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Evan Goodman	OL	6-4	290	✪✪✪✪	Lakeland, FL	Lakeland
Rated as the No. 41 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 30 offensive tackle…Chose Arizona State over Arkansas, Florida State, Nebraska, Notre Dame and others.						
Marion Grice	RB	6-0	215	✪✪✪✪	Brenham, TX	Blinn C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 5 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Racked up 2,221 rushing yards and 33 touchdowns in two seasons at Blinn C.C.						
Jaxon Hood	DT	6-1	290	✪✪✪	Chandler, AZ	Hamilton
Had 100 tackles, 23 tackles for loss and 13 sacks as a senior… Chose ASU over offers from Air Force, Arizona, Boston College, Fresno State, Tulane and Washington State.						
Oliver Johnson	DB/WR	6-2	200	✪✪✪	Woodland Hills, CA	Pierce C.C.
Had 12 tackles and five pass breakups in six games in 2010…Had seven tackles, one tackle for loss and one pass breakup in three games in 2011.						
Milo Jordan	DT	6-2	275	✪✪✪	Corona, CA	Centennial
Recorded 43 tackles and 2.5 sacks in 2011…Had 67 tackles and 2.5 sacks in 2010… Helped lead team to a 14-1 record.						
Kody Kohl	TE	6-3	220	✪✪	Gilbert, AZ	Mesquite
Had 29 catches for 506 yards and four touchdowns as a senior…Caught 19 passes for 248 yards as a junior…Brother of former ASU tight end Trevor Kohl.						
Steffon Martin	LB	6-2	230	✪✪✪	Yuma, AZ	Arizona Western C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 34 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Had 62 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, five sacks, one interception and three pass breakups in 2010.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Stephon McCray	OL	6-4	300	✪✪✪	Fresno, CA	Bullard
Rated as the nation's No. 43 offensive guard by Rivals.com…Chose Arizona State over Colorado, Fresno State, Iowa State, Nevada and Washington State.						
William McGehee	OL	6-6	300	✪✪	Corsicana, TX	Navarro J.C.
Focused on basketball in high school before his senior season…Played one season at Navarro J.C. and has four years to play three.						
Carlos Mendoza	LB	6-1	220	✪✪✪	Westlake Village, CA	Oaks Christian
Had 48 tackles, four sacks and three pass breakups as a senior…Chose Arizona State over Air Force, Cal Poly, New Mexico State, San Jose State and Washington State.						
Laiu Moeakiola	DB	6-1	205	✪✪✪	Euless, TX	Trinity
Rated as the No. 92 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 42 safety…Chose Arizona State over Arizona, Baylor, Colorado, Tulsa and UCLA.						
Mike Pennel	DT	6-5	340	✪✪✪	Scottsdale, AZ	Scottsdale C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 36 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Had 34 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and one sack in 2010…Chose Arizona State over Arkansas, Hawaii, Kansas State, Texas A&M and others.						
Darwin Rogers	TE	6-4	240	✪✪	Yuma, AZ	Arizona Western C.C.
Originally signed with Illinois out of high school…Also recruited by Eastern Michigan, Indiana, Ole Miss, Texas Tech, Washington, Oregon State and Utah State…Enrolled at Arizona State in January.						
Matthew Rowe	LB	6-2	220	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 68 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 61 outside linebacker…Had 83 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions in 2011.						
Jake Sheffield	DT	6-4	280	✪✪✪	Palm Desert, CA	College of the Desert
Had 24 tackles, four tackles for loss, two blocked kicks and 1.5 sacks in 2011…Chose Arizona State over Indiana and Iowa…Enrolled at Arizona State in January.						
Richard Smith	WR	5-9	161	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 53 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 63 wide receiver…Chose Arizona State over Arizona, Colorado, UCLA, Utah and Washington.						
Easton Wahlstrom	OL	6-2	231	✪✪	Scottsdale, AZ	Desert Mountain
One of the nation's top long snappers…Also recruited by BYU, Fresno State, Houston and Tulsa…Enrolled at Arizona State in January.						
Chris Young	DB	6-2	220	✪✪✪	Yuma, AZ	Arizona Western C.C.
Had 111 tackles, 30 tackles for loss, 8.5 sacks and two interceptions in 2011…Chose Arizona State over Indiana, Oregon State and Washington State.						

A LOOK AT THE SUN DEVILS

RESULTS

6-7, 4-5

W	UC DAVIS	48-14
W	MISSOURI (OT)	37-30
L	at Illinois	14-17
W	USC	43-22
W	OREGON STATE	35-20
W	at Utah	35-14
L	at Oregon	27-41
W	COLORADO	48-14
L	at UCLA	28-29
L	at Washington State	27-37
L	ARIZONA	27-31
L	CALIFORNIA	38-47
	Las Vegas Bowl	
L	vs. Boise State	24-56

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
B. Osweiler	13	326	516	13	63.2	4036	26
T. Kelly	2	4	4	0	100.0	31	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Marshall	13	230	1050	4.6	18	70	80.8
J. Miles	12	29	237	8.2	0	51	19.8
K. Middlebrooks	13	42	150	3.6	0	15	11.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
G. Robinson	13	77	1397	18.1	7	58	107.5
J. Miles	12	60	361	6.0	6	25	30.1
A. Pflugrad	13	44	665	15.1	5	60	51.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Parker 75, V. Burfict 69, C. Floyd 69
Tackles for loss: O. Aaron 8, V. Burfict 7, B. Moos 7
Sacks: V. Burfict 5, C. Parker 2.5, D. Coleman 2.5, W. Sutton 2.5
Interceptions: C. Floyd 4, A. Darby 3, two tied with 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	NORTHERN ARIZONA	4-7
Sept. 8	ILLINOIS	7-6
Sept. 15	at Missouri	8-5
Sept. 22	UTAH	8-5
Sept. 29	at California	7-6
Oct. 11	at Colorado	3-10
Oct. 18	OREGON	12-2
Oct. 27	UCLA	6-8
Nov. 3	at Oregon State	3-9
Nov. 10	at USC	10-2
Nov. 17	WASHINGTON STATE	4-8
Nov. 23	at Arizona	4-8

PLAYER PROFILE

Cameron Marshall
Photo by Norm Hall/Getty Images

Aim of Top Rusher: Shed Pain, Tacklers

Last season, Cameron Marshall became ASU's first 1,000-yard rusher since 2006. He scored 18 rushing touchdowns, which tied a school record. So how many games did Marshall take the field feeling totally healthy?

"Probably just one," the senior said.

That's what gives ASU fans hope for this season. A healthy Marshall could be a force in the backfield, one capable of breaking tackles and sustaining drives. Problem is: Marshall still isn't 100 percent. After the first week of spring practice, Marshall felt pain in his ankle. The result: minor surgery, which put Marshall on crutches for the rest of the spring.

His hope is to be pain-free by fall camp, which will give the offense a boost. At this point, Marshall isn't holding back.

"All-Pac-12, All-American, all-everything," he said. "My goals are high for this year. I've expressed that and I want to make sure we do our thing out here in Tempe."

Regardless of the uncertainty at quarterback, ASU is expected to run more this year. Last season, under former ASU offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, the Sun Devils ran on 44.5 percent of 950 total plays. Over the last two years, Graham's teams have rushed 54.9 percent of 944 plays (last year at Pittsburgh) and 53.4 percent of 1,006 plays (2010 at Tulsa).

The backfield, however, is crowded.

Aside from Marshall, senior James Morrison played so well during the spring that Graham practically guaranteed him carries. Junior Kyle Middlebrooks and sophomore Deantre Lewis have shown flashes, and the Sun Devils likely will try to get receiver Jamal Miles involved.

Making matters more complicated: Marion Grice, considered a top junior college running back, and talented freshman D.J. Foster arrive in the fall.

Graham, however, isn't concerned.

"Cam Marshall, in my opinion, if he can get trained (following his surgery), he can be as good as there is in this conference and one of the best in the country," he said. "He fits our style of downhill running."

Marshall embraces the challenge.

"Obviously, we do have a lot of talented backs, and I love that because it keeps me on my toes and on my game," he said. "There's never time to take a day off. Never time to take a play off. It just motivates me more, to get in the film room and make more plays in practice and all that kind of stuff."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

LB Brandon Magee

The senior pretty much has turned into the face of the program. He speaks at community events, mingles with fans and almost always delivers a funny quote to local media. He's also a good football player. ... At outside linebacker two seasons ago, Magee finished second on the team with 73 tackles, five for loss. He also was considered the team's best linebacker in coverage. ... Magee missed all of last season with an Achilles' injury, but is expected to be a major contributor in the fall.

EMERGING STAR

CB Osahon Irabor

After redshirting as a freshman, Irabor replaced an injured Deveron Carr in ASU's sixth game of 2010. He has started every game since, 19 in a row. ... Had a season-high nine tackles vs. Illinois last year. ... His one interception in 2011 came in a victory vs. Oregon State. ... After posting 48 tackles and six pass breakups as a sophomore, Irabor was a standout in spring drills. This could be a breakout season.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB D.J. Foster

D.J. Foster, who can play running back or slot receiver, was the jewel of Graham's first recruiting class, a four-star prospect from Scottsdale Saguaro High. ... As a senior, Foster was a scoring machine, producing a state-record 60 touchdowns. He rushed 234 times for 3,058 yards. ... "D.J. is a very dynamic, prolific tailback, also has tremendous ball skills out the backfield," ASU coach Todd Graham said. ... ASU could redshirt Foster, but all indications point to him playing.

receiver earned second-team All-Pac-12 status, returning two kickoffs for a touchdown and a punt for another score. He finished 18th nationally in kickoff returns (26.3 yards) and would've finished third in punt returns (16.6 yards) had he attempted more than 14.

Senior Rashad Ross also will return kicks. An indoor track star, Ross averaged 30.4 yards per return last season in limited opportunities, returning one for a touchdown.

Sophomore kicker Alex Garoutte had a rough time last season, making 15 of 22 field-goal attempts. His spring wasn't much better, although he did finish strong. Punter Josh Hubner averaged 41.3 yards per punt last season, and excelled at dropping kicks inside the 20.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Graham era opens against Northern Arizona, which hasn't defeated the Sun Devils since 1938. From there, Illinois and a road trip to Missouri round out the non-conference schedule. ASU hasn't won a road non-conference game since defeating Colorado in 2006, losing at Georgia, Wisconsin and Illinois.

The Sun Devils open Pac-12 play at home against Utah, then travel to California and Colorado, a key stretch if they expect to contend in the South Division.

After home games against Oregon — ASU hasn't beaten the Ducks since 2004 — and UCLA, the Sun Devils will enter November, a month that has killed them lately. Over the last three seasons, ASU is 1-10 in November.

— Doug Haller

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

For more coverage of the Golden Bears, visit cal.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Michalczik **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Clancy Pendergast **STADIUM:** Memorial: 71, 799

AT A GLANCE

2011:
7-6, 4-5 Pac-12 (4th, North)

COACH:
Jeff Tedford — At Cal and overall: 79-48, 10 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
10; 6 offense, 4 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Zach Maynard, RB Isi Sofele, WR Keenan Allen, DE Mustafa Jalil, NG Aaron Tipoti

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The Bears boast great depth at running back, led by Sofele, but also feature a smaller, quicker senior C.J. Anderson and redshirt freshman Brendan Bigelow, who performed well in the spring. Allen will be one of the best wideouts in the country and likely is playing his final season at Cal. Maynard is expected to play at a higher level this year.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The offensive line, replacing two starters, was a work in progress during spring ball. Aside from Allen, there is not a wideout with a track record, and the Bears are counting on at least two incoming freshmen to emerge in August. Cal is handing the punting chores to a true freshman.

KEY LOSSES:
WR Marvin Jones, OT Mitchell Schwartz, ILB Mychal Kendricks, ILB D.J. Holt, P Bryan Anger, K Giorgio Tavecchio

OVERVIEW:
The Bears are not easy to pigeonhole in the Pac-12 North, where Oregon figures to reload, Stanford faces the huge departure of Andrew Luck and everyone else has significant questions. Cal is under some pressure to return to form after two subpar seasons, and experience at the offensive skill positions is a good starting point. The defense lost marquee talent, but the coaching staff is high on the front seven. If things come together, the Bears could finish as high as No. 2 in the North. If they don't do better than the past two seasons, Tedford will feel some heat.

Golden Bears Looking for Revival after Renovation

A new era of Cal football begins Sept. 1 when the Golden Bears open renovated Memorial Stadium against Nevada.

Cal hopes the new chapter also includes a return to the program's winning ways of the first decade of the new century.

The Bears were a prominent, if not dominant, team in the conference from 2003 through 2009, when they won at least eight games in six of seven seasons. But they have fallen off in the past two years.

They were a combined 12-13 in 2010 and 2011, including just a 7-11 record in conference play. Cal is 0-8 over that span against USC, Oregon, Stanford and Washington, and has not won a postseason game since the 2008 Emerald Bowl.

With a $321 million stadium debt to begin paying off, there is financial pressure to sell tickets. To some degree, obviously, that's a function of performance on the field.

Coach Jeff Tedford, beginning his 11th season, isn't interested in resting on past laurels. He understands the urgency to return to form, and believes it's on the horizon.

"We have potential to be a very good football team," Tedford said after spring workouts.

The defense, which has carried the Bears the past two seasons, will be young. But the offense features experience with quarterback Zach Maynard, wideout Keenan Allen and running back Isi Sofele.

Maynard is the key.

"Given the experience of our quarterback now, and his production and his management of the game toward the second half of the season, if we could start the season like that, I think we have the ability to be very productive," Tedford said.

Returning to Berkeley, after playing home games at AT&T Park in San Francisco last season, should provide a boost. Memorial Stadium, erected in 1923, has been rebuilt.

Rebuilding their football fortunes is up to the Bears.

OFFENSE

The Bears expect this to be the strength of their team based on experience at the key skill positions. Quarterback Zach Maynard, who began his career at Buffalo, was erratic through midseason last year before finding a rhythm and improving his efficiency.

One of the keys to Maynard's improvement was the development of a more aggressive running game. Tailback Isi Sofele was a question mark when the season began, considered perhaps a situational player at 5-8, 183 pounds.

"Could he be durable?" offensive coordinator Jim Michalczik wondered. "But he got better as the season went on."

Sofele wound up with 1,322 rushing yards, averaging 142 yards over the final four regular-season games. The Bears are deeper at tailback, with a slimmed-down C.J. Anderson and a healthy redshirt freshman Brendan Bigelow backing Sofele.

Junior Keenan Allen — Maynard's half-brother — is one of the nation's elite wideouts. He is expected to be fully recovered after missing spring ball following surgery for an ankle injury he sustained while playing pickup basketball.

The rest of the wideout rotation is up for grabs. Cal signed six high school receivers and expects at least two of them to find their way onto the field this season.

The Bears are hoping to spice up the attack with more production at tight end. Richard Rodgers, whose father was involved in the five-lateral kickoff return against Stanford in 1982 that became known as The Play, has made the transition from high school wideout to Pac-12 tight end.

"He wasn't a very good blocker and he became one," Michalczik said. "He made really good strides and has a good future here."

Less settled is the line, where the Bears replace two starters, including second-round NFL draft choice Mitchell Schwartz

Keenan Allen
Photo by Jason O. Watson-US PRESSWIRE

GOLDEN BEARS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
58	Chris Adcock	OL	6-3	303	So.	Rowlett, TX
35	Ted Agu	LB	6-1	246	So.	Bakersfield
32	David Aknin	FB	5-11	215	Sr.	San Carlos
21	Keenan Allen	WR	6-3	206	Jr.	Greensboro, NC
9	C.J. Anderson	TB	5-11	214	Sr.	Vallejo
89	Stephen Anderson	WR	6-2	208	Fr.	San Jose
2	Marc Anthony	DB	6-0	200	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
41	Todd Barr	DL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lakewood
27	Mitchel Bartolo	TB	5-8	190	Jr.	San Diego
5	Brendan Bigelow	TB	5-10	188	So.	Fresno
6	Kyle Boehm	QB	6-3	221	Fr.	San Jose
81	Ross Bostock	WR	6-2	202	Sr.	Sebastapol
28	Jackson Bouza	WR	6-0	182	Jr.	Lafayette
68	Mark Brazinski	OL	6-3	306	Jr.	Basking Ridge, NJ
16	Allan Bridgford	QB	6-3	218	Jr.	Mission Viejo
24	Trajuan Briggs	TB	5-11	222	So.	Pacoima
22	Nathan Broussard	LB	6-3	246	Fr.	Plano, TX
46	Brett Buchanan	TE	6-3	227	So.	Encinitas
36	Benjamin Calder	PK	5-11	200	Fr.	Houston, TX
43	Dan Camporeale	LB	6-3	243	Jr.	Lafayette
54	Austin Clark	DL	5-10	268	Jr.	Tampa, FL
91	Deandre Coleman	DL	6-5	311	Jr.	Seattle, WA
71	Alejandro Crosthwaite	OL	6-4	290	So.	Rosarito Beach, Mexico
13	Vincenzo D'Amato	PK	6-1	206	Jr.	Lake Forest
82	Jake Davis	TE	6-4	214	Jr.	King City
22	Nico Dumont	FB	5-11	232	Jr.	Novato
31	Tyré Ellison	DB	6-3	194	Sr.	San Francisco
34	Darren Ervin	TB	5-10	197	Fr.	Houston, TX
42	Steven Fanua	LB	6-0	220	Jr.	Milpitas
59	Brian Farley	OL	6-7	291	Fr.	San Diego
11	Nick Forbes	LB	6-1	236	So.	Frederick, MD
65	Dominic Galas	OL	6-1	286	Sr.	Modesto
70	Geoffrey Gibson	OL	6-3	313	So.	Las Vegas, NV
9	Jason Gibson	LB	6-2	223	Fr.	Gardena
87	Spencer Hagan	TE	6-5	227	Jr.	Sacramento
3	Maurice Harris	WR	6-3	206	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
23	Josh Hill	DB	5-10	207	Sr.	Houston, TX
7	Austin Hinder	QB	6-4	194	So.	Steamboat Springs, CO
34	J.P. Hurrell	LB	5-11	235	Sr.	San Mateo
3	Kameron Jackson	DB	5-9	187	So.	Long Beach
90	Mustafa Jalil	DL	6-2	302	So.	San Diego
7	Jalen Jefferson	LB	6-2	234	Fr.	Ventura
56	Keni Kaufusi	DL	6-1	282	Jr.	Salt Lake City, UT
99	Gabe King	DL	6-5	293	So.	Burlington, NC
10	Lucas King	LB	6-3	242	So.	Berkeley
8	Zach Kline	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Danville
26	Kameron Krebs	FB	6-1	227	Sr.	Sunset Beach, HI
88	Kaulin Krebs	WR	6-0	188	Sr.	Sunset Beach, HI
83	Cary Kriegsman	LS	5-10	200	So.	Pacific Palisades
45	Spencer Ladner	TE	6-7	260	Sr.	Kansas City, MO
45	James Langford	PK	6-3	198	Jr.	Pleasanton
20	Isaac Lapite	DB	5-9	187	So.	Eugene, OR
2	Daniel Lasco	TB	6-1	204	Fr.	The Woodlands, TX
15	Adrian Lee	DB	5-11	207	So.	Dallas, TX
6	Alex Logan	DB	6-2	207	Jr.	Denver, CO
75	Puka Lopa	DL	6-1	248	Fr.	Sacramento
5	Michael Lowe	DB	5-11	218	So.	Hyattsville, MD
86	Brandon Madueño	LS	6-0	247	Jr.	West Covina
13	Mike Manuel	WR	5-9	198	Sr.	Carson
28	Matt Mayes	LB	6-0	204	So.	Alturas
15	Zach Maynard	QB	6-2	185	Sr.	Greensboro, NC
40	Chris McCain	LB	6-6	230	So.	Greensboro, NC
21	Stefan McClure	DB	5-11	188	So.	Vista
86	Bryce McGovern	WR	5-10	208	So.	Danville
55	Viliami Moala	DL	6-2	347	So.	Sacramento
29	Jordan Morgan	DB/P	6-0	199	Fr.	Lakeside, AZ
37	Robert Mullins	LB	6-0	228	Sr.	Los Angeles
76	Christian Okafor	OL	6-6	315	Fr.	Houston, TX
96	Kendrick Payne	DL	6-2	274	Sr.	Houston, TX
39	Nathan Phillip	TE	6-2	237	Jr.	Oakland
73	Jordan Rigsbee	OL	6-4	306	Fr.	Chico
77	Tyler Rigsbee	OL	6-5	290	Sr.	Chico
11	Richard Rodgers	TE/P	6-4	265	So.	Worcester, MA
17	Brennan Scarlett	DL	6-4	255	So.	Portland, OR
57	Brian Schwenke	OL	6-4	312	Sr.	Oceanside
4	Avery Sebastian	DB	5-10	201	So.	McDonough, GA
69	John Sheperdson	LS	6-3	229	So.	Danville
14	Chad Smith	P	6-5	202	So.	Los Angeles
20	Isi Sofele	TB	5-8	183	Sr.	Salt Lake City, UT
48	Eric Stevens	FB	6-0	242	Sr.	San Pedro
75	Matt Summers-Gavin	OL	6-4	293	Sr.	San Francisco
50	Aaron Tipoti	DL	6-2	274	Sr.	Honolulu, HI
79	Bill Tyndall	OL	6-4	282	Jr.	Pacific Grove
84	Jacob Wark	TE	6-4	265	So.	Tualatin, OR
14	Cecil Whiteside	LB	6-2	229	So.	Newport Beach
44	David Wilkerson	LB	6-2	238	So.	Danville
72	Matt Williams	OL	6-6	303	Jr.	Liverpool, England
1	Steve Williams	DB	5-10	189	Jr.	Dallas, TX
18	Joel Willis	WR	5-10	188	Fr.	Garden Grove
23	Dasarte Yarnway	TB	6-0	225	Jr.	San Francisco

NOTEBOOK

The Bears were on the brink of landing a top-five national recruiting class when two assistant coaches, including top recruiter Tosh Lupoi, were lured to Washington just before Signing Day. The departures triggered a chain reaction that cost Cal top prospects who had given oral commitments.

Even without safety Shaq Thompson (Washington), defensive lineman Arik Armstead (Oregon), defensive lineman Ellis McCarthy (UCLA) and wideout Jordan Payton (UCLA), Cal's recruiting class wound up as high as No. 15 by MaxPreps and in the Top 25, according to ESPN and Rivals.

Meanwhile, **Jeff Tedford** hired **Todd Howard** to coach the defensive line and **Wes Chandler** to mentor the receivers. Howard, 46, who played and coached in the NFL, had to win over players close to 30-year-old Lupoi.

"He's good. I like him," junior defensive end **Deandre Coleman** said of Howard. "He knows what he's talking about. He's a funny guy and he's wise."

Chandler caught 559 passes for 8,966 yards and 56 touchdowns in 11 seasons in the NFL. He also spent six seasons coaching receivers in the NFL and NFL Europe.

- Senior quarterback **Zach Maynard** skipped several spring workouts to attend to academic responsibilities, fueling rumors that he was struggling in the classroom and could face eligibility issues in the fall. Maynard was not the only player to skip spring practices for academic reasons, and Tedford said he has no issue with it.

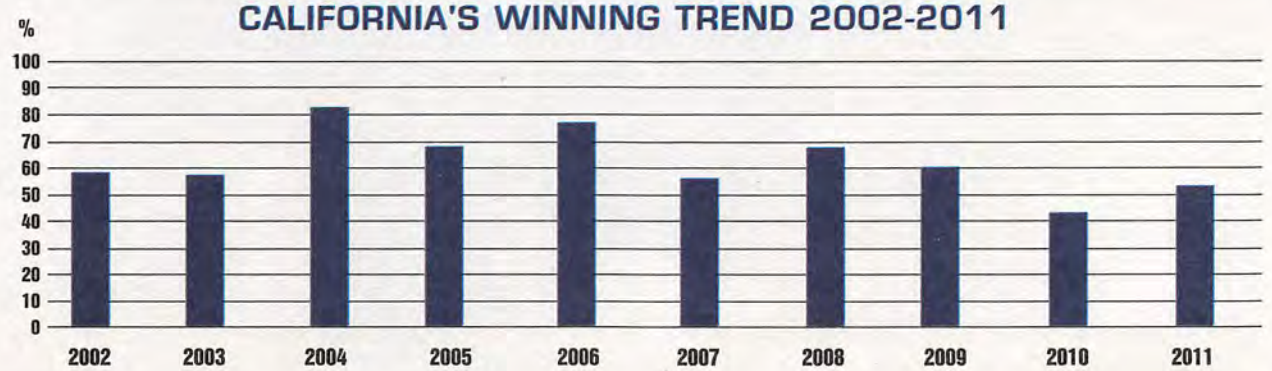
Asked directly if he had any concerns about his fall eligibility, Maynard said, "No doubts ... I'm solid."

- Redshirt sophomore running back **Brendan Bigelow** emerged during spring ball as a candidate to be in the rotation. Bigelow, who carried the ball just six times last season while coming off a knee injury in high school the year before, got plenty of opportunity as the coaching staff kept a short leash on starter **Isi Sofele**.

"You could tell he's healthy," Tedford said of Bigelow. "He has a lot of trust in his knee — that wasn't an issue whatsoever."

- Junior **Mark Brazinski**, who would have provided depth at center and guard, will miss the season after tearing his ACL in spring ball.

CALIFORNIA'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



at left tackle. Senior Tyler Rigsbee is stepping into his spot, flanked at left guard by brother Jordan Rigsbee.

Returning starters Brian Schwenke and Dominic Galas are switching spots, with Schwenke moving to center and Galas to left guard, a move designed to better suit their personalities.

DEFENSE

The Bears have led the conference in total defense the past two seasons, and coordinator Clancy Pendergast isn't giving an inch, despite losing several starters, including Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year Mychal Kendricks.

"Our expectations are high," Pendergast said.

The Bears have young talent and depth along the defensive front. Junior Deandre Coleman and sophomore Mustafa Jalil show promise. Junior Kendrick Payne is penciled in at nose guard, but the best of the bunch may be senior Aaron Tipoti, who missed spring ball following offseason shoulder surgery.

Tipoti will be used at nose guard and end, Pendergast said.

"We're going to get our best three defensive linemen out there, and Aaron's one of our best three," he said. "He's very good with his hands. He knocks back offensive players. He gets off blocks and makes plays. He's a disruptive guy."

The linebacker corps is also young but deep. Sophomores Chris McCain and Brennan Scarlett provide length and athleticism at the outside spots, with junior Dan Camporeale also in the mix. Scarlett sat out the spring after knee surgery, but Pendergast has high hopes. "He's a big-time talent," he said.

Sophomore David Wilkerson, who started the Holiday Bowl as a freshman last season, has been moved from outside to inside — the same move the Bears made with Kendricks before last season. Wilkerson will compete with seniors Robert Mullins and J.P. Hurrell, among others.

Questions remain in the secondary, where the Bears must replace both safeties and face health questions. Cornerback Marc Anthony sat out spring ball while rehabbing a shoulder injury; highly regarded corner Stefan McClure is trying to ready himself after undergoing ACL and MCL surgery last November.

Josh Hill, who began his career as a safety but has played as the nickel back the past two seasons, returns to his roots.

"Josh Hill is probably the best football player on our defense that nobody knows about," Pendergast said. "He's smart, understands the scheme, understands what offenses are trying to do."

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bears must replace their placekicker and punter. Departed kicker Giorgio Tavecchio made 20 of 23 field-goal attempts a year ago, missing just once inside 40 yards. The heir is senior Vince D'Amato, who won the job with a solid performance during spring ball.

Isi Sofele
Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 154.8 ypg rushing (5th in Pac-12/62nd NCAA), 246.6 ypg passing (8th/46th), 401.5 ypg total offense (8th/44th), 28.3 ppg (8th/53rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Zach Maynard*	Sr.	Believes mental part of his game is most improved.	Allan Bridgford, Jr.
RB	Isi Sofele*	Sr.	Rushed for 1,322 yards in 2011 as first-time starter.	C.J. Anderson, Sr.
FB	Eric Stevens	Sr.	Back after missing all of last season with knee injury.	Kameron Krebs, Sr.
WR	Keenan Allen*	Jr.	All-America candidate has said this is his final year.	Bryce Treggs, Fr.
WR	Maurice Harris	Fr.	Maynard's cousin was encouraging during spring.	Darius Powe, Fr.
TE	Richard Rodgers	So.	Former high school wideout won job in the spring.	Spencer Hagan, Jr.
LT	Tyler Rigsbee	Sr.	Assigned to replace NFL draftee Mitchell Schwartz.	Bill Tyndall, Jr.
LG	Jordan Rigsbee	Fr.	Tyler's younger brother emerged in spring camp.	Alejandro Crosthwaite, So.
C	Brian Schwenke*	Sr.	Moved from left guard to solidify center spot.	Chris Adcock, So.
RG	Dominic Galas*	Sr.	Ex-starting center will use explosiveness at guard.	Geoffrey Gibson, So.
RT	Matt Summers-Gavin*	Sr.	Only returning line starter in same spot.	Brian Farley, Fr.
K	Vince D'Amato	Sr.	Won job with consistent spring performance.	James Langford, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 128.7 ypg rushing (4th in Pac-12/34th NCAA), 204.2 ypg passing (1st/37th), 332.9 ypg total defense (1st/25th), 24.2 ppg (4th/48th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Mustafa Jalil	So.	Aaron Tipoti could also see action at this spot.	Todd Barr, Fr.
NG	Aaron Tipoti*	Sr.	Coaches also high on Payne's ability to clog middle.	Kendrick Payne, Sr.
DE	Deandre Coleman	Jr.	Had six tackles for loss as backup last season.	Keni Kaufusi, Jr.
LB	Brennan Scarlett	So.	Sat out spring ball after knee surgery.	Nathan Broussard, Fr.
LB	Robert Mullins	Sr.	Emerged from spring as starter at deep position.	J.P. Hurrell, Sr.
LB	Nick Forbes	So.	Highly rated as prep; missed 2011 with ankle injury.	David Wilkerson, So.
LB	Chris McCain	So.	Became a starter in fifth game as a 2011 frosh.	Dan Camporeale, Jr.*
CB	Marc Anthony*	Sr.	Coaches expecting big things in his final season.	Kameron Jackson, So.
CB	Steve Williams*	Jr.	Only defensive returnee who started every game.	Stefan McClure, So.
SS	Josh Hill	Sr.	Played nickel back in the past two seasons.	Avery Sebastian, So.
FS	Alex Logan	Jr.	Has talent; needs to step up and show up often.	Michael Lowe, So.
P	Cole Leininger	Fr.	Florida prep handed job to replace Bryan Anger.	Richard Rodgers, So.

*Returning Starter

GOLDEN BEARS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Michael Barton	LB	6-1	200	★★★★	Concord, CA	De La Salle
Rated as the No. 39 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 11 inside linebacker…Had 103 tackles, three tackles for loss, three sacks and two pass breakups as a senior…Had 72 tackles as a junior.						
Maurice Bennett	DT	6-2	282	★★★	Madison, MS	Madison Central
Late addition to the Cal class…Participated in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic…Chose Cal over Memphis and Washington State.						
Matt Cochran	OL	6-4	340	★★★	Atwater, CA	Buhach
Rated as the No. 54 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 3 offensive center…Chose Cal over Auburn, Tennessee, Washington and others.						
Jeffrey Coprich	RB	5-9	182	★★★	Stevenson Ranch, CA	West Ranch
Rushed for 1,277 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Cal over offers from Army, Cal Poly, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois State and Montana.						
Cedric Dozier	ATH	5-11	175	★★★★	Lakewood, WA	Lakes
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 12 athlete…Had 28 receptions for 479 yards and five touchdowns as a senior.						
Damariay Drew	ATH	5-11	195	★★★	Livermore, CA	Livermore
Rushed for 1,291 yards and 17 touchdowns on offense and recorded 79 tackles, seven sacks, one interception and two pass breakups on defense as a senior…Participated in the California Prep All-Star Game.						
Maximo Espitia Jr.	FB	6-2	205	★★★	Salem, OR	South Salem
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Chose Cal over offers from Idaho and Oregon State.						
Willie Fletcher	DB	6-3	180	★★	Orange, CA	Lutheran
Late addition to the Cal class…Also had offers from Northern Colorado and Southwest Oklahoma.						
Raymond Ford	DB	5-10	180	★★★	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Rated as the No. 46 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 35 cornerback…Chose Cal over Nebraska, UCLA, Utah and others.						
Chris Harper	WR	6-0	165	★★★	Encino, CA	Crespi
Rated as the No. 47 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 61 wide receiver…Chose Cal over Colorado, Georgia Tech, SMU and others.						
Zach Kline	QB	6-2	195	★★★★	Danville, CA	San Ramon Valley
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 7 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 2 pro-style quarterback…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Kenny Lawler	WR	6-3	175	★★★★	Upland, CA	Upland
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 32 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 33 wide receiver…Chose Cal over Arizona State, Oregon State, Washington and others.						
Cole Leininger	K	6-2	195	★★	Fruit Cove, FL	Bartram Trail
Averaged 42.7 yards per punt as a senior…Chose Cal over offers from Purdue, TCU and Western Kentucky.						
Steven Moore	OL	6-6	265	★★★	Elk Grove, CA	Elk Grove
Rated as the No. 70 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Cal over Arizona, Boise State, Colorado, Fresno State, Nevada, San Jose State and UCLA.						
Hardy Nickerson	LB	6-0	218	★★★	Oakland, CA	Bishop O'Dowd
Rated as the No. 92 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 38 inside linebacker…Had 153 tackles as a senior…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Christian Okafor	OL	6-6	315	★★★	Houston, TX	Westbury
Rated as the No. 96 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 61 offensive tackle…Chose Cal over Arizona State, Arkansas, Baylor, Houston, Mississippi State and Stanford.						
Darius Powe	WR	6-2	186	★★★★	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 33 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 35 wide receiver…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Freddie Tagaloa	OL	6-8	300	★★★★	Richmond, CA	Salesian
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 25 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 17 offensive tackle…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Bryce Treggs	WR	5-11	171	★★★★	Bellflower, CA	St. John Bosco
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 13 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 12 wide receiver…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						

A LOOK AT THE GOLDEN BEARS

RESULTS

	7-6, 4-5	
W	FRESNO STATE	36-21
W	at Colorado (OT)	36-33
W	PRESBYTERIAN	63-12
L	at Washington	23-31
L	at Oregon	15-43
L	USC	9-30
W	UTAH	34-10
L	at UCLA	14-31
W	WASHINGTON STATE	30-7
W	OREGON STATE	23-6
L	at Stanford	28-31
W	at Arizona State	47-38
	Holiday Bowl	
L	vs. Texas	10-21

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
Z. Maynard	13	231	405	12	57.0	2990	17
A. Bridgford	4	13	32	0	40.6	184	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
I. Sofele	13	252	1322	5.2	10	56	101.7
C.J. Anderson	13	72	345	4.8	8	34	26.5
Z. Maynard	13	84	108	1.3	4	43	8.3

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
K. Allen	13	98	1343	13.7	6	90	103.3
M. Jones	13	62	846	13.6	3	51	65.1
A. Miller	13	24	263	11.0	3	44	20.2

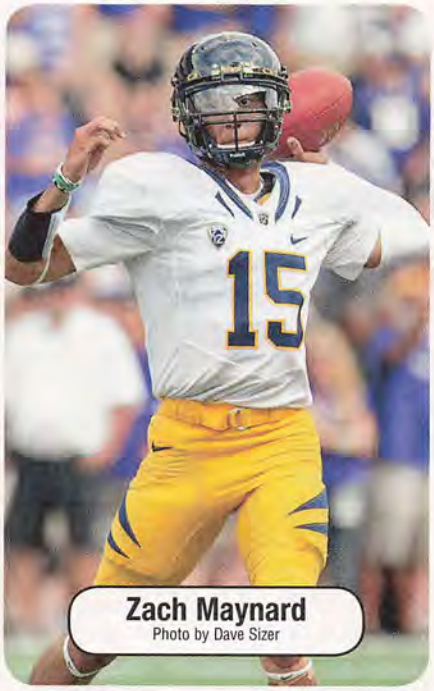
DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: M. Kendricks 107, D.J. Holt 82, S. Cattouse 75
Tackles for loss: M. Kendricks 14.5, T. Guyton 12, D.J. Holt 10.5
Sacks: T. Guyton 5.5, E. Owusu 4.5, D. Wilkerson 4
Interceptions: M. Kendricks 2, S. Cattouse 2, D.J. Campbell 2, J. Hill 2, S. Williams 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	NEVADA	7-6
Sept. 8	SOUTHERN UTAH	6-5
Sept. 15	at Ohio State	6-7
Sept. 22	at USC	10-2
Sept. 29	ARIZONA STATE	6-7
Oct. 6	UCLA	6-8
Oct. 13	at Washington State	4-8
Oct. 20	STANFORD	11-2
Oct. 27	at Utah	8-5
Nov. 2	WASHINGTON	7-6
Nov. 10	OREGON	12-2
Nov. 17	at Oregon State	3-9

PLAYER PROFILE



Zach Maynard
Photo by Dave Sizer

Cal Puts Confidence In QB Maynard

Cal's ability to become a more consistently productive offense begins with Zach Maynard. Coach Jeff Tedford sounds convinced the Bears have the right man at quarterback.

"Last spring you were scratching your head and wondering what's going to happen. It was just so new," Tedford said of 2011 spring workouts when Maynard prepared for his first season as a starter. "Now he has great control of everything that's going on ... now he's a real field general."

A transfer from Buffalo, Maynard passed for 2,990 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2011, but appeared overmatched at times early in the season. His accuracy was off, his interceptions too frequent.

But over Cal's final four regular-season games, Maynard completed more than 68 percent of his attempts, was picked off just once and compiled a 154.4 passer rating.

That's the quarterback the Bears need running their offense while the defense plays catch-up after losing key personnel.

Maynard, who rated his junior season performance as "pretty average," expects to be a different player.

"As far as experience, another year is huge for me," he said. "Just coming out and working with guys, building that chain throughout the offense that we all connect together."

Offensive coordinator Jim Michalczik said Maynard's ability to execute the offense is "night and day" different from last season.

"I don't know if we want to do more; we want to be more consistent and efficient," Michalczik said.

Maynard said two changes midway through last season made a big difference. Cal became more stubborn with its running game, and coaches loosened the reins on Maynard, allowing him to roll out more and utilize his mobility.

"I like being on the move. I feel like I'm pretty accurate when I'm running the ball and I decide to throw it," he said. "And the passing game develops itself when they're more worried about the running game."

The result was Cal averaged 31.5 points over its final four Pac-12 games after scoring at just a 19.0 clip through the first five conference outings.

Even so, Maynard has not convinced all Cal fans, some of whom already are salivating over the arrival of much-heralded freshman quarterback Zach Kline.

Maynard isn't concerned with perceptions.

"I don't get involved in the outside world," he said. "If there is something I have to prove, I'm just going to come out and play as hard as I can every play and make it known I'm the right guy."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR Keenan Allen

The All-Pac-12 junior faces a bigger challenge after the departure of senior Marvin Jones. Allen is certain to attract additional coverage as the Bears work to develop an otherwise young receiving corps. ... A dynamic playmaker boasting a natural chemistry with quarterback and half-brother Zach Maynard. ... Caught 98 passes for 1,343 yards and six touchdowns last season. ... Has already said he will enter the NFL Draft next spring.

EMERGING STAR

OLB Chris McCain

Rangy and mobile, McCain (6-6, 230) started six times as a freshman and is part of a young but promising linebacker corps. ... "We're real excited about him. He's got a lot of upside," defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast said. "He's long. Very good football awareness, good football IQ. Very excited about his future." ... Had 29 tackles, including six for loss, last season.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Zach Kline

Rated the nation's No. 2 pro-style quarterback by Rivals.com. ... Kline graduated from San Ramon Valley High in Danville (Calif.) in December in order to enroll in classes and participate in spring workouts. ... Enters fall camp as perhaps the front-runner for the No. 3 spot after delivering the game-winning touchdown and two-point conversion pass in Cal's spring game. ... Was rated the nation's 44th-best prospect overall by Rivals.com.

The bigger loss is punter Bryan Anger, a three-time all-conference pick and third-round NFL choice of the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Bears are counting on incoming freshman Cole Leininger.

Redshirt sophomore tailback Brendan Bigelow is back as the top kick returner after averaging 20.7 yards a year ago, including an 88-yard touchdown against Presbyterian.

Star wideout Keenan Allen is penciled in as the primary punt return man, but he has modest experience in the role and may eventually be deemed as too valuable to face the risks of the job.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Bears open renovated Memorial Stadium on Sept. 1 against Nevada. Cal played its 2011 home schedule at AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants, while its home field underwent a $321 million seismic retrofit and facelift. Southern Utah visits the next weekend, then the schedule gets tough.

Cal travels to Ohio State and new coach Urban Meyer on Sept. 15, and one week later plays a potent USC team on the road.

The Big Game against Stanford will be played on Oct. 20 — the earliest the rivals have squared off — because of scheduling difficulties resulting from the new Pac-12 TV network.

"I don't particularly like it," Tedford conceded. "Playing Stanford in the middle of the season is going to feel really odd for our fans."

Cal gets UCLA, Stanford, Washington and Oregon at home, but must play 12 straight weekends without a bye.

— Jeff Faraudo

COLORADO BUFFALOES

For more coverage of the Buffaloes, visit colorado.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Eric Bieniemy | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Brown** | **STADIUM: Folsum Field: 53,750**

AT A GLANCE

2011:
3-10, 2-7 (T-5th, South)

COACH:
Jon Embree — At Colorado and overall: 3-10, 1 year

RETURNING STARTERS:
11; 3 offense, 6 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Connor Wood, QB Nick Hirschman, RB Tony Jones, DL Will Pericak, LB Douglas Rippy, CB Greg Henderson, S Ray Polk, LB Jon Major

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The offensive line and linebacker corps are the most experienced groups on the team. The Buffs could be much better in the run game, though one key will be a quarterback stepping in and demonstrating competency in the passing game to prevent defenses from loading up against the run.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
This team will be among the youngest in the nation. A quarterback needs to take control of the job early to avoid a controversy. Standout WR Paul Richardson tore his ACL in spring and is out for the season. Players need to emerge at wide receiver and defensive line, among other spots.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Tyler Hansen, RB Rodney Stewart, WR Toney Clemons, OT Ryan Miller

OVERVIEW:
The bulk of the talent is in the freshman and sophomore classes, and the challenge will be getting those young guys to play at a high level, particularly early. This team could have a first-time starter at quarterback, and that player could be the key to the Buffs navigating a season of growing pains.

Into the Fire: Young Buffs Looking to Forge Steel

Coach Jon Embree is in a tough position entering his second season in Boulder. While he hopes to show improvement in his program after enduring a three-win campaign in 2011 that included seven blowout losses, he must make a leap with one of the youngest teams in the nation.

The Buffs have only eight seniors, and Embree said throughout the spring that he expects freshmen, redshirt freshmen and sophomores to dominate the roster. Embree tried to put an optimistic spin on the challenge by noting that some of his most talented players are youngsters.

There is experience at a few key positions on the defense, and that might be enough to help that side of the ball improve. But the offense figures to have a lot of young faces at the skill positions.

There will be a new starting quarterback after Tyler Hansen wrapped up his career and signed as a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals. Breaking in a new signal caller only compounds the difficulty of trying to win games with all that youth.

"It's always important to keep the standard or set the tone, so they understand what you're trying to do," Embree said.

"Every game counts for us; we don't have the luxury of trying to let guys ease their way into it. We have to go. It's important we get off to a fast start and it's important for the kids who play to understand they can help us get off to a fast start."

Embree, a Colorado alumnus, spent a year changing the passive culture he inherited from Dan Hawkins, re-instituting some old traditions that Hawkins had done away with. Embree says he feels good about the direction of the program and believes players have embraced higher expectations.

But he also is a realist and understands there are still mountains to climb when it comes to closing the gap with the talent-rich programs at the top of the league.

OFFENSE

There are far too many questions here for the Buffs to believe there won't be some growing pains. Every position is up for grabs except for three spots on the offensive line, and it's likely true freshmen will get major opportunities at wide receiver, tight end and running back.

Third-year sophomore quarterback Connor Wood, a transfer from Texas, took every snap with the first team in spring ball because fellow third-year sophomore Nick Hirschman was injured. They will compete for the job in August and coaches might throw a wild card in the mix if former Kansas starter Jordan Webb transfers to Boulder (still pending in June).

Webb would be the most experienced quarterback on the roster and be eligible right away because he earned his degree in three years as a Jayhawk.

Regardless of who plays quarterback, the Buffs build their offense around running the ball. That makes even more sense this season with most of the experience residing on the offensive line and at tailback.

Sophomore Tony Jones will be the starter at tailback, occasionally making way for freshmen such as Davien Payne, Donta Abron and Terrence Crowder.

The line has a chance to be good with three returning starters in the mix, led by left tackle David Bakhtiari, selected second-team All-Pac-12 as a sophomore a year ago. Gus Handler is developing into a future pro, and big right tackle Jack Harris is back from an injury. Senior Ryan Dannewitz is a jack-of-all-trades who can

Jon Major
Photo by Marc Piscotty/Icon SMI

BUFFALOES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
33	Cordary Allen	TE	6-1	245	So.	Phenix City, AL
59	David Bakhtiari	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Burlingame, CA
21	Jered Bell	DB	6-0	190	So.	Ontario, CA
94	Nate Bonsu	DT	6-1	300	Jr.	Allen, TX
40	Brandon Brisco	DB	5-11	170	Fr.	Oakland, CA
10	Brent Burnette	QB	6-3	215	Sr.	Maryvile, TN
84	Keenan Canty	WR	5-9	160	So.	New Orleans, LA
40	Justin Castor	PK	6-4	200	Jr.	Golden
30	Jermane Clark	OLB	6-2	200	Fr.	Winston-Salem, NC
64	Brad Cotner	C	6-4	280	So.	Thousand Oaks, CA
54	Kaiwi Crabb	OL	6-3	285	So.	Honolulu, HI
44	Malcolm Creer	TB	5-11	205	So.	Los Angeles, CA
54	Brady Daigh	ILB	6-2	245	So.	Littleton
53	Ryan Dannewitz	OL	6-6	310	Sr.	San Jacinto, CA
82	Jarrod Darden	WR	6-5	210	Jr.	Keller, TX
12	Stevie Joe Dorman	QB	6-3	205	Fr.	Somerset, TX
83	Dustin Ebner	WR	6-1	180	Sr.	Arvada
27	Vince Ewing	ILB	6-0	205	Sr.	Carlsbad, CA
99	Scott Fernandez	TE	6-3	255	Jr.	Broomfield
29	Josh Ford	TB	5-9	195	Jr.	Denver
21	D.D. Goodson	TB	5-7	165	So.	Rosenberg, TX
14	Justin Gorman	DB	6-0	195	So.	Manheim, PA
37	Woodson Greer	OLB	6-3	225	So.	Carson, CA
15	Zach Grossnickle	P	6-2	190	Jr.	Denver
76	Gus Handler	OL	6-3	295	Jr.	Barrington, IL
28	Will Harlos	DB	6-3	195	Fr.	Somerset, TX
23	Sherrard Harrington	DB	6-1	175	Fr.	Washington, DC
75	Jack Harris	OL	6-5	305	Jr.	Parker
20	Greg Henderson	DB	5-11	180	So.	Corona, CA
8	Nick Hirschman	QB	6-3	230	So.	Los Gatos, CA
29	Harrison Hunter	DB	5-10	175	So.	Fountain
69	Ryan Iverson	SN	6-0	215	Jr.	Newport Beach, CA
57	Clayton Jones	SN	6-1	215	Fr.	Palo Alto, CA
26	Tony Jones	TB	5-7	175	So.	Paterson, NJ
44	Nick Kasa	TE	6-6	265	Sr.	Thornton
74	Alex Kelley	OL	6-3	315	Fr.	Oceanside, CA
97	Kyle Koch	DL	6-6	255	Fr.	Englewood
65	Keegan LaMar	SN	6-1	255	Fr.	Boulder
71	Alexander Lewis	OL	6-6	275	So.	Tempe, AZ
31	Jon Major	OLB	6-2	230	Sr.	Parker
87	Tyler McCulloch	WR	6-5	200	So.	Albuquerque, NM
39	Josh Moten	DB	6-0	185	So.	Carson, CA
52	Daniel Munyer	OL	6-2	295	So.	Tarzana, CA
72	Marc Mustoe	OL	6-7	280	Fr.	Broomfield
77	Stephane Nembot	OL	6-8	310	Fr.	Van Nuys, CA
58	Andre Nichols	DE	6-4	225	So.	Colorado Springs
36	Clay Norgard	FB	6-1	240	Fr.	Highlands Ranch
8	Darragh O'Neill	P	6-2	185	So.	Louisville
91	Will Oliver	PK	5-10	195	So.	Los Angeles, CA
13	Parker Orms	DB	5-11	195	Jr.	Wheat Ridge
27	Tommy Papillion	WR	6-4	210	Jr.	Englewood
2	Juda Parker	DL	6-3	245	So.	Aiea, HI
83	Will Pericak	DL	6-4	285	Sr.	Boulder
38	Nick Plimpton	FB	5-11	220	Fr.	Phoenix, AZ
26	Ray Polk	DB	6-1	205	Sr.	Scottsdale, AZ
91	Kirk Poston	DL	6-1	255	So.	Houston, TX
6	Paul Richardson	WR	6-1	170	Jr.	Gardena, CA
70	Eric Richter	DL	6-3	315	Sr.	Mission Viejo, CA
3	Douglas Rippy	ILB	6-3	240	Sr.	Columbus, OH
14	John Schrock	QB	6-4	215	Fr.	Kansas City, KS
88	Kyle Slavin	TE	6-4	245	So.	Littleton
41	Terrel Smith	DB	5-8	180	Jr.	Paterson, NJ
22	Nelson Spruce	WR	6-2	195	Fr.	Westlake Village, CA
38	River Thompson	DB	5-9	155	Fr.	Denver
85	DaVaughn Thornton	WR	6-4	220	Jr.	Denver
42	K.T. Tu'umalo	DB	6-2	200	So.	Honolulu, HI
86	Alex Turbow	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	San Luis Obispo, CA
51	John Tuso	DL	6-4	265	Fr.	Englewood
9	Chidera Uzo-Diribe	DL	6-3	255	Jr.	Corona, CA
32	Paul Vigo	DB	6-1	195	Jr.	New Brunswick, NJ
92	Casey Walker	DL	6-4	215	Fr.	Grand Junction
4	Kyle Washington	DB	6-1	215	So.	Pasadena, CA
1	Derrick Webb	ILB	6-0	220	Jr.	Memphis, TN
97	D.J. Wilhelm	P	6-2	195	So.	Clear Lake, IA
45	Lowell Williams	ILB	6-1	200	So.	Missouri City, TX
46	Alex Wood	TE	6-2	250	Jr.	Steamboat Springs
5	Connor Wood	QB	6-3	225	So.	Houston, TX
33	Richard Yates	DB	6-2	180	So.	Lakewood

NOTEBOOK

Colorado coaches felt like one of the biggest deficiencies they inherited from the previous regime was a lack of team speed.

They emphasized making improvement in that area through recruiting, and head coach **Jon Embree** said the large class of freshmen in 2012 will definitely make the Buffs more competitive in that area of the game. But there is still plenty of ground to make up on the elite "speed" programs in the league, such as Oregon and USC.

The speed issue showed up numerous times in 2011 during a series of ugly blowouts in the middle of the season. The Buffs lost six Pac-12 games by at least 25 points. They lost by a combined 109 points to the three best teams in the league — Oregon, Stanford and USC.

- The athletic department is expected to announce in September a multi-million dollar upgrade to Folsom Field that will enclose the north end of the stadium and add an indoor practice facility, something numerous coaches have coveted in Boulder over the years.

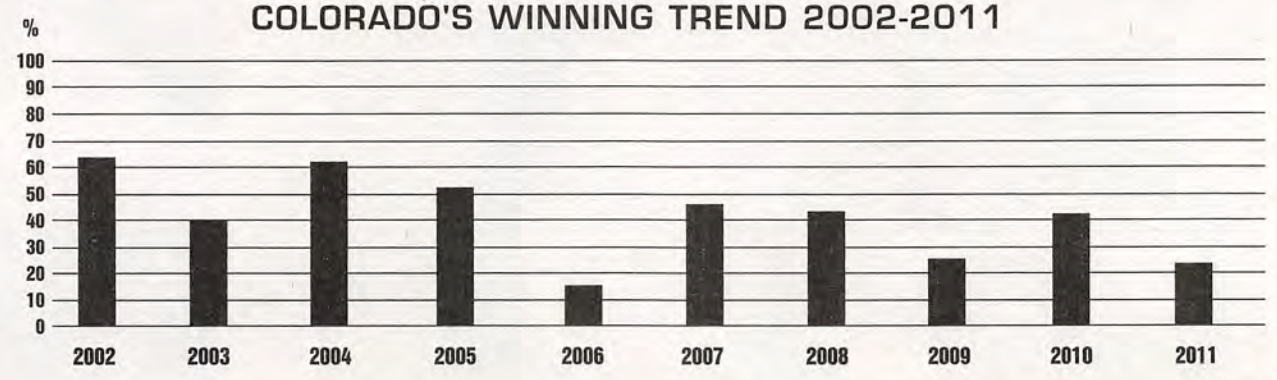
The project could be complete by the time the freshmen on this season's team are seniors and could increase the capacity of the stadium to about 60,000.

- It has been nearly seven years since the Buffs appeared in the national polls. It's a trend that doesn't figure to end this year with so much youth on the roster and a difficult slate of conference foes. The last time the Buffs were ranked was mid-November 2005 going into a game at Iowa State that they lost.

- For just the second time since 1989, the full CU coaching staff returned from the previous season. Retaining coaches has long been a problem in Boulder because of a state law that limits each school to six multi-year contracts, which are often dedicated to head coaches, the athletic director, chancellors and presidents.

Embree said keeping all of his assistants required some effort. During the spring, he acknowledged that three of his assistants chose to stay in Boulder instead of jumping to opportunities in the NFL. Embree did not identify those assistants.

COLORADO'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



be moved around if injuries become an issue.

There are big concerns at wide receiver with Paul Richardson out for the year after a spring knee injury. The hope is that one of three freshmen from the state of Texas emerges to fill Richardson's big-play role. Jeffrey Thomas might be the most likely candidate.

There is very little experience at wide receiver or tight end, where converted defensive end Nick Kasa was atop the depth chart at the end of the spring.

DEFENSE

If the defense is going to improve this year, it has to create more turnovers and do a better job of getting off the field on third downs. The Buffs generated just 15 turnovers in 13 games a year ago, and opponents converted 47 percent of the time on third downs.

The potential trouble spot is up front, where coaches are expecting to play at least five or six of the freshman defensive linemen they signed. Senior Will Pericak might be the player this team can least afford to lose to injury; he is the only player who has significant experience in the interior. Freshman Josh Tupou is likely to start — or at least be on the field quite a bit — from the outset.

Depth is a little better on the outside, where Juda Parker and Chidera Uzo-Diribe should make a solid pass-rushing duo. Look for true freshman Kisima Jagne to earn playing time as well.

Defensive coordinator Greg Brown is very creative when it comes to rushing the quarterback, so the pitfalls of playing freshmen on the defensive line isn't as big of a concern in that area as is stopping the run.

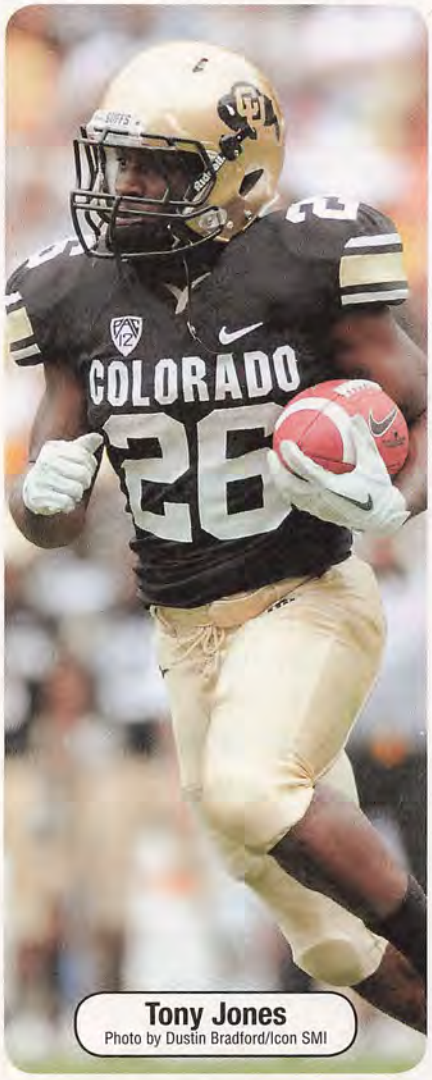
The strength of the defense is its linebackers and safeties. Middle linebacker Douglas Rippy is coming off a torn ACL, but he was leading the team in tackles in the middle of last season before the injury. Fellow senior Jon Major ended up leading the team in stops. Junior Derrick Webb makes plays all over the field and is starting to come into his own.

Tough-guy free safety Ray Polk has a lot of football under his belt. He will need to provide direction to young cornerbacks such as Greg Henderson, who played more snaps than anyone on the defense as a freshman in 2011, and true freshman Yuri Wright.

The Buffs were weak against the pass last year and must make a big leap in that area.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Darragh O'Neill stole the job last summer from Zach Grossnickle despite never having played in a football game at any level. His soccer background gives him the ability to punt with either foot, but he needs to work on hang time.



Tony Jones
Photo by Dustin Bradford/Icon SMI

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 108.7 ypg rushing (9th in Pac-12/106th NCAA), 237.6 passing (9th/57th), 346.3 total offense (11th/92nd), 19.8 ppg (12th/109th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Connor Wood	So.	Will have to earn the job in August.	Nick Hirschman, So.
RB	Tony Jones	So.	A solid dual-threat out of the backfield.	Davien Payne, Fr.
FB	Alex Wood	Jr.	Walk-on will have to fight off two freshmen.	Clay Norgard, Fr.
WR	Tyler McCulloch	So.	Not a burner, but definitely reliable.	Jeffrey Thomas, Fr.
WR	Nelson Spruce	Fr.	Has been compared to ex-Buff Scotty McKnight.	Peyton Williams, Fr.
TE	Nick Kasa	Sr.	Can the former defensive lineman come through?	Austin Ray, Fr.
LT	David Bakhtiari*	Jr.	Second-team All-Pac-12 as a sophomore.	Marc Mustoe, Fr.
LG	Alexander Lewis	So.	Talented tackle playing out of position.	Kaiwi Crabb, So.
C	Gus Handler*	Jr.	Should be one of the better centers in the Pac-12.	Brad Cotner, So.
RG	Ryan Dannewitz*	Sr.	Versatile glue guy for this group.	Daniel Munyer, So.
RT	Jack Harris	Jr.	Returns from a lower leg injury in 2011.	Stephane Nembot, Fr.
K	Will Oliver*	So.	Set a school freshman record with 52-yard FG.	Justin Castor, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 183.9 ypg rushing (10th in Pac-12/88th NCAA), 255.4 passing (6th/91st), 439.3 total defense (10th/102nd), 36.5 ppg (12th/109th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Juda Parker	So.	Being pressed for playing time might help him.	Kisima Jagne, Fr.
NT	Josh Tupou	Fr.	A big, talented youngster to stop the run.	Nate Bonsu, Jr.
DT	Will Pericak*	Sr.	Four-year starter who might be key to this defense.	Tyler Henington, Fr.
JACK	Chidera Uzo-Diribe	Jr.	Has the talent to be a nightmare for opposing QBs.	De'Jon Wilson, Fr.
LB	Douglas Rippy*	Sr.	The heart and soul of this unit.	Brady Daigh, So.
LB	Derrick Webb*	Jr.	Speedy playmaker with a nose for the ball.	Kyle Washington, So.
LB	Jon Major*	Sr.	This is the guy coaches know will do everything right.	Woodson Greer, So.
CB	Greg Henderson*	So.	Set freshmen record for playing time last year.	Kenneth Crawley, Fr.
CB	Yuri Wright	Fr.	Four-star recruit with big expectations from fans.	Jered Bell, So.
SS	Parker Orms	Jr.	Heady player who has been plagued by injuries.	Will Harlos, Fr.
FS	Ray Polk*	Sr.	Gritty guy who started making big plays late in 2011.	Terrel Smith, Jr.
P	Darragh O'Neill*	So.	Has the ability to punt with either leg.	Zach Grossnickle, Jr.

*Returning Starter

BUFFALOES RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Donta Abron	RB	5-9	187	★★	Upland, CA	Upland
Racked up 4,242 rushing yards and 52 touchdowns during his career…Rushed for 1,754 yards and 33 touchdowns as a senior.						
Kenneth Crawley	DB	6-1	170	★★★★	Washington, DC	H. D. Woodson
Rated as the No. 2 prospect in D.C. by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 22 cornerback.						
Terrence Crowder	RB	5-10	212	★★	Galena Park, TX	Galena Park
Earned all-district honors…Rushed for 1,338 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2010.						
Shane Dillon	QB	6-5	185	★★★	El Cajon, CA	Christian
Rated as the No. 48 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 13 pro-style quarterback.						
Jeffrey Hall	DB	5-11	180	★★★	LaPlace, LA	St. Charles Catholic
Recorded 55 tackles, 4.5 sacks and nine interceptions as a senior…First-team all-state selection.						
Tyler Henington	DT	6-3	265	★★★	Denver, CO	Mullen
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…All-state selection as a senior.						
Vincent Hobbs	TE	6-3	230	★★★	Mesquite, TX	Horn
Rated as the No. 79 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 31 tight end.						
Jeromy Irwin	OL	6-5	289	★★★	Cypress, TX	Cy-Fair
Three-year starter…All-district selection…Youngest of a set of triplets that includes Colorado TE signee Sean Irwin.						
Sean Irwin	TE	6-4	220	★★★	Cypress, TX	Cy-Fair
Earned all-district honors…Had 24 receptions for 495 yards and four touchdowns during his career.						
Kisima Jagne	DE	6-5	235	★★★	Chandler, AZ	Chandler
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 28 strongside defensive end.						
Samson Kafovalu	DE	6-3	253	★★★	Riverside, CA	Arlington
Had 56 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks as a senior…Three-year starter and four-year letterman.						
Gerrad Kough	OL	6-5	270	★★	Pomona, CA	Pomona
First-team All-CIF Southern Section Mid-Valley Division as a senior.						
Marques Mosley	ATH	6-1	174	★★★	Upland, CA	Upland
Recorded 64 tackles, two interceptions and four pass breakups as a senior…Had 65 tackles and one interception as a junior.						
Clay Norgard	RB	6-1	240	★★★	Highlands Ranch, CO	Mountain Vista
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 4 fullback.						
Davien Payne	RB	5-11	213	★★★	Perris, CA	Citrus Hill
Rated as the nation's No. 46 running back by Rivals.com…Rushed for 1,928 yards and 27 touchdowns as a junior.						
Christian Powell	ATH	5-11	250	★★★	Upland, CA	Upland
Rated as the No. 93 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 55 athlete.						
Kory Rasmussen	DT	6-3	255	★★	Honolulu, HI	Kamehameha School
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Colorado over Arizona, Hawaii, Utah and Washington.						
Austin Ray	TE	6-6	235	★★★	Columbia, MO	Rock Bridge
Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com…Caught 22 passes for 338 yards and five touchdowns as a senior.						
Justin Solis	DT	6-3	287	★★★	Westlake Village, CA	Westlake
Rated as the No. 97 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 45 defensive tackle.						
John Stuart	DE	6-4	230	★★	Westlake Village, CA	Westlake
Had 168 tackles, 15 sacks and two interceptions during his career…Also played basketball.						
Gerald Thomas	WR	5-10	170	★★★	The Colony, TX	The Colony
Had 37 receptions for 945 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 71 passes for 1,185 yards and 12 TDs as a junior.						
Jeffrey Thomas	WR	6-3	180	★★★	Duncanville, TX	Duncanville
Had 59 receptions for 899 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 21 passes for 364 yards and eight TDs as a junior.						
Josh Tupou	DT	6-4	302	★★★	Buena Park, CA	Buena Park
Played both ways as a senior…Had 60 tackles, 3.5 sacks and four forced fumbles in 2011.						
John Walker	DB	6-0	175	★★★	Washington, District of Columbia	H. D. Woodson
Had 84 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions as a senior…Also played quarterback in high school.						
Peyton Williams	WR	6-1	185	★★★	Southlake, TX	Carroll
Had 90 receptions for 1,162 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 56 passes for 683 yards and six TDs as a junior.						
De'Jon Wilson	DE	6-3	240	★★★	Washington, DC	H. D. Woodson
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in D.C. by Rivals.com…Had 57 tackles, 21 sacks and four interceptions as a junior.						
Yuri Wright	DB	6-2	180	★★★★	Ramsey, NJ	Don Bosco Prep
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 3 prospect in New Jersey…Rated as the nation's No. 7 cornerback…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						

A LOOK AT THE BUFFALOES

RESULTS

3-10, 2-7

L	at Hawaii	17-34
L	CALIFORNIA	33-36
W	COLORADO STATE	28-14
L	at Ohio State	17-37
L	WASHINGTON STATE	27-31
L	at Stanford	7-48
L	at Washington	24-52
L	OREGON	2-45
L	at Arizona State	14-48
L	USC	17-42
W	ARIZONA	48-29
L	at UCLA	6-45
W	at Utah	17-14

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
T. Hansen	13	231	412	11	56.1	2883	20
N. Hirschman	6	18	35	0	51.4	192	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Stewart	11	189	854	4.5	4	52	77.6
T. Jones	12	78	297	3.8	2	38	24.8
J. Ford	12	22	128	5.8	1	20	10.7

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Stewart	11	45	571	12.7	0	76	51.9
T. Clemons	13	43	680	15.8	8	45	52.3
P. Richardson	9	39	555	14.2	5	78	61.7

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Major 85 , R. Polk 80, , A. Perkins 80
Tackles for loss: J. Hartigan 10, P. Mahnke 8, J. Major 7
Sacks: J. Hartigan 8, C. Uzo-Diribe 5.5, two tied with 3
Interceptions: J. Espinoza 2, five tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 2	vs. Colorado State (Denver)	3-9
Sept. 8	SACRAMENTO STATE	4-7
Sept. 15	at Fresno State	4-9
Sept. 22	at Washington State	4-8
Sept. 29	UCLA	6-8
Oct. 11	ARIZONA STATE	6-7
Oct. 20	at USC	10-2
Oct. 27	at Oregon	12-2
Nov. 3	STANFORD	11-2
Nov. 10	at Arizona	4-8
Nov. 17	WASHINGTON	7-6
Nov. 23	UTAH	8-5

PLAYER PROFILE

Douglas Rippy
Photo by Dave Sizer

Healed Rippy Ready To Return To Form

Linebacker Douglas Rippy didn't play much during his first three years at Colorado, but he felt reborn under a new coaching staff in 2011 and was playing at a level worthy of the four-star ranking he earned as a high school recruit.

But his season ended in October during a game at Washington, when he suffered a torn ACL. At the time, Rippy was the Buffs' best defensive player, leading the team with 62 tackles. Coaches were using him creatively in blitz packages, and he had three sacks to his credit.

Despite playing in only two-plus Pac-12 games, the league's coaches thought highly of what they saw from him either in person or on film, selecting him honorable mention all-conference. Rippy did not participate in spring football but, by late May, he said he was nearing 100 percent.

"I think I'm going to be even better just from watching more film and finally understanding our defense and what we're trying to do — and understanding offensive formations and what they're trying to do," Rippy said.

"It will help me play a lot faster because I'm a tall, athletic linebacker and that kind of helped me a lot. But now that I'm going to be smarter about the game, it will help me a lot more."

Colorado coach Jon Embree said there was nothing more important for his defense in 2012 than getting Rippy back on the field and playing at or above the level he was at last season.

"I'm going to be relying a lot on him," Embree said.

"I think he is, obviously, not just a defensive leader, but he's a team leader. He really is. I think it says a lot that he was voted by the coaches as honorable mention All-Pac-12 and only played in, really, three games in the conference."

Rippy said having football taken away from him for the first time was a difficult blow that had him reeling for weeks. He said he always respected the game and understood the risks, but having to sit and watch his teammates struggle mightily without him taught him just how important the sport is to him.

"It was really difficult," Rippy said.

"I'm really passionate about the game. ... When you get hurt, mentally you're fine for the first couple of days and when it finally hits you that you can't play, it's hard."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

LB Douglas Rippy

He was a big reason why the defense was more competitive in the first half of last season — before he was injured. ... The fifth-year senior is a big, speedy playmaker in the middle of the defense and understands the mental side of the game very well. ... He was the leading tackler on the team with 62 when he suffered a torn ACL in the eighth game; he still finished fifth in tackles. ... He had three sacks last season.

EMERGING STAR

RB Tony Jones

The sophomore gained some valuable experience filling in for Rodney Stewart when he was injured for several games in the second half of last season. Jones built even more confidence with a strong spring. ... He is an undersized back like Stewart but is probably a stronger runner between the tackles, and he should catch between 25 to 40 passes out of the backfield. ... He will face competition from a strong group of freshmen, but he has a big head start.

TOP NEWCOMER

CB Yuri Wright

He is the highest-rated player the program has landed in several years, and he comes at a position of need. The Buffs were atrocious defending the pass last year. ... Now, Wright — from New Jersey powerhouse Don Bosco Prep — has to live up to his billing as the nation's No. 7 cornerback prospect, according to Rivals.com. ... Was a controversial player in this recruiting cycle because he was expelled from high school in January after posting sexually-charged tweets.

O'Neill had 17 punts of 50 or more yards, and he put 21 inside the 20-yard line, as he averaged 42.6 yards. All of that should improve now that he has some experience.

Kicker Will Oliver claimed the job as a true freshman in fall camp last season and never relinquished it. He made 11 of 16 field-goal attempts and would have had better totals if not for breakdowns in protection that led to four blocks.

Colorado needs big-time improvement in both coverage units and must find a return man who can strike fear in opponents.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Buffs must get off to a fast start with September non-conference games on a neutral field against Colorado State, at home against lower-division Sacramento State and on the road at Fresno State.

CU broke its four-year road losing streak at Utah to end the 2011 season, but it will enter 2012 with plenty still to prove on the road. The first trip to Fresno could be one of the biggest games of the season. CU will face USC, Oregon, Arizona and Washington State in conference road games. Going 2-2 in those games would be a huge success.

Stanford, Washington, UCLA, ASU (on a Thursday night) and Utah come to Boulder, where the Buffs have played with much more confidence in recent seasons.

— Kyle Ringo

OREGON DUCKS

For more coverage of the Ducks, visit oregon.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mark Helfrich | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Nick Aliotti | **STADIUM:** Autzen Stadium: 54,000

AT A GLANCE

2011:
12-2, 8-1 Pac-12 (T-1st, North)

COACH:
Chip Kelly — At Oregon and overall: 34-6, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
12; 4 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
RB Kenjon Barner, RB/WR De'Anthony Thomas, WR Josh Huff, DL Dion Jordan, LB Michael Clay, FS John Boyett

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The defense will be solid and deep, with rover the only question mark, and experienced players are there to fill the role. Barner should be a premier Pac-12 running back and Thomas one of the nation's most exciting players. Oregon has plenty of athletes on offense and depth on the offensive line.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
A new quarterback, either Marcus Mariota or Bryan Bennett, will take the reins. Playmakers need to emerge to team with Huff at receiver, and Colt Lyerla needs to be consistent at tight end. Blocking is always a key with the spread-option offense.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Darron Thomas, RB LaMichael James, TE David Paulson, SS Eddie Pleasant

OVERVIEW:
Could a fourth consecutive league title and BCS berth happen? Quite possibly. The Rose Bowl champs have a soft non-league schedule, which should prepare the new quarterback for the Pac-12 season. Barner's health is a key; depth at running back is a concern. If Oregon gets the proper quarterback efficiency, Pac-12 supremacy could be on the line Nov. 3 at USC.

Reloaded Ducks Shooting for a Conference Four-peat

In capturing their third consecutive league title and winning the school's first Rose Bowl game in 95 years, the Oregon Ducks, among other things, spoiled Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck's bid to exit college football as a champion.

The Ducks have a four-peat in mind, and now they have the opportunity to ruin USC quarterback Matt Barkley's senior year party. Clearly, the Trojans and Ducks are the Pac-12's best teams, with the Nov. 3 matchup in Los Angeles looming.

The Ducks have been known for offense under coach Chip Kelly, averaging 41.9 points and 484.2 yards in his five seasons in Eugene (including as an assistant). They have averaged nearly 50 points and more than 500 yards in the past two seasons with the fast, up-tempo spread option.

But the offense needs a little work to match those levels (and, perhaps, to keep pace with Barkley and USC). Sophomore Bryan Bennett and redshirt freshman Marcus Mariota will battle to be quarterback, and young receivers and tight ends have to step into prime time.

The Ducks can rely on running back Kenjon Barner and slash player De'Anthony Thomas.

The 5-11, 195-pound senior Barner steps out of LaMichael James' shadow, entering the season with 1,856 yards and 20 rushing touchdowns, 34 receptions for 335 yards and five receiving touchdowns, and two returns for scores.

The electrifying Thomas has added some bulk (5-9, 173), coming off a sensational freshman season — 595 yards and seven touchdowns rushing, 46 receptions for 605 yards and nine touchdowns receiving and two kickoff return scores.

Oregon will sport a defense that returns six defensive linemen, including Taylor Hart and Dion Jordan, three stellar linebackers in Michael Clay, Kiko Alonso and Boseko Lokombo, and a loaded secondary with four-year starting free safety John Boyett leading the way. Coordinator Nick Aliotti said it could be his best unit in 21 seasons at Oregon.

Still, success figures to depend on Bennett or Mariota.

"They have a tremendous amount of upside," Kelly said of his quarterbacks. "It's not a position I'm worried about."

OFFENSE

The Ducks were dealt an unexpected blow when quarterback Darron Thomas joined running back LaMichael James in declaring for the NFL Draft, each following their junior seasons.

Thomas and James will go down as all-time greats at Oregon. But, even without the battery and engine that helped make the Ducks one of the most dynamic offensive teams in the nation, Oregon contends that very little will change.

"It's going to be the same Oregon (spread option) offense that you've seen," running back Kenjon Barner said. "Coach Kelly isn't changing and this offense isn't changing. We're going to go out, be fast, run the ball, pass the ball and that's pretty much it."

All eyes are on Bennett and Mariota. Bennett, the more mature player physically, played in seven games as Thomas' backup last season, throwing six touchdown passes. He's a terrific runner with a strong arm. But Mariota starred in UO's spring game, showing an accurate arm with touch, good running ability and sound decision-making.

"Marcus and Bryan have been tremendous for our team," Barner said. "But Marcus put on a show (in the spring game)."

Oregon will return talented offensive linemen — center Hroniss Grasu, guard Carson York, tackle Nick Cody as starters — although York had offseason knee surgery. The Ducks have high hopes for their young linemen, including tackle Jake

De'Anthony Thomas
Photo by Jim Z. Rider-US PRESSWIRE

DUCKS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
47	Kiko Alonso	LB	6-4	240	Sr.	Los Gatos, CA
78	Karrington Armstrong	OL	6-3	270	Jr.	Reno, NV
51	Isaac Ava	LB	5-10	238	So.	Ewa Beach, HI
17	Antwan Baker	RB	5-7	170	Fr.	Portland
24	Kenjon Barner	RB	5-11	195	Sr.	Riverside, CA
93	Rob Beard	PK	6-0	225	Sr.	Fullerton, CA
2	Bryan Bennett	QB	6-3	205	So.	Encino, CA
71	Everett Benyard	OL	6-7	325	Jr.	San Diego, CA
12	Devon Blackmon	WR	6-1	177	Fr.	Fontana, CA
20	John Boyett	FS	5-10	202	Sr.	Napa, CA
26	Ben Butterfield	WR	6-0	186	Jr.	Sherwood
28	Tra Carson	RB	6-0	227	So.	Texarkana, TX
34	Rahim Cassell	LB	6-0	215	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
60	Ryan Clanton	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Bakersfield, CA
46	Michael Clay	LB	5-11	225	Sr.	San Jose, CA
61	Nick Cody	OL	6-5	301	Sr.	Brush Prairie, WA
33	Tyson Coleman	LB	6-1	213	Fr.	Lake Oswego
4	Erick Dargan	DB	5-11	200	So.	Pittsburg, CA
84	Chad Delaney	WR	6-0	181	Jr.	Elmira
5	Issac Dixon	DB	5-11	185	Fr.	Miami Gardens, FL
19	Eric Dungy	WR	6-1	183	So.	Tampa, FL
91	Dane Ebanez	WR	5-9	174	Jr.	North Pole, AK
97	Jared Ebert	DT	6-5	285	Jr.	Iowa City, IA
14	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	CB	5-10	182	So.	Chino Hills, CA
58	James Euscher	OL	6-7	295	Fr.	Aloha
75	Jake Fisher	OL	6-6	285	So.	Traverse City, MI
33	Ayele Forde	RB	5-7	179	So.	Victorville, CA
57	Trevor Fox	OL	6-5	285	Jr.	Temecula, CA
82	Christian French	TE	6-5	236	Fr.	Cedar Rapids, IA
26	Carlyle Garrick	LB	6-2	221	Fr.	Castro Valley, CA
38	Mike Garrity	LB	6-1	221	So.	San Carlos, CA
55	Hroniss Grasu	OL	6-3	291	So.	Encino, CA
63	Mana Greig	OL	5-11	291	Jr.	Kailua, HI
60	Ryan Hagen	DT	6-3	284	Jr.	Brea, CA
14	Dustin Haines	QB	6-3	204	Jr.	Eugene
48	Rodney Hardrick	LB	6-1	225	So.	Colton, CA
66	Taylor Hart	DT	6-6	283	Jr.	Tualatin
16	Daryle Hawkins	WR	6-4	197	Jr.	Omaha, NE
90	Ricky Heimuli	DT	6-4	321	Jr.	Glendale, UT
2	Troy Hill	DB	5-11	165	So.	Ventura, CA
81	Justin Hoffman	WR	6-1	206	Sr.	Eugene
39	Drew Howell	LS	6-2	230	Jr.	Tehachapi, CA
1	Josh Huff	WR	5-11	207	Jr.	Houston, TX
12	Brian Jackson	DB	5-10	194	Jr.	Hoover, AL
92	Miles Johnson	WR	6-1	182	Fr.	Sherman Oaks, CA
64	Tyler Johnstone	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Chandler, AZ
96	Dion Jordan	DE	6-7	240	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
95	Koa Ka'ai	DE	6-4	245	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
98	David Kafovalu	DE	6-3	250	So.	Riverside, CA
43	Keloni Kamalani	LB	5-11	216	Jr.	Kihei, HI
99	Sam Kamp	DL	6-4	247	Fr.	Mesa, AZ
92	Wade Keliikipi	DT	6-3	300	Jr.	Waianae, HI
23	B.J. Kelley	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	Fresno, CA
25	Boseko Lokombo	LB	6-3	232	Jr.	Abbotsford, B.C.
7	Keanon Lowe	WR	5-9	177	So.	Portland
15	Colt Lyerla	TE	6-5	238	So.	Hillsboro
32	J.R. Maffie	DB	5-11	197	Jr.	Diamond Bar, CA
41	Alejandro Maldonado	PK	5-10	198	Jr.	Colton, CA
22	Derrick Malone	LB	6-2	208	So.	Colton, CA
8	Marcus Mariota	QB	6-4	200	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
3	Dior Mathis	CB	5-9	174	So.	Detroit, MI
57	Ryan McCandless	DE	6-2	205	Fr.	Santa Rosa, CA
94	Axel McQuaw	DT	6-6	275	Jr.	Yachats
27	Terrance Mitchell	DB	6-0	189	So.	Sacramento, CA
97	Nick Morrison	DL	6-4	250	Jr.	Everett, WA
90	Will Murphy	WR	6-2	183	Sr.	Albany
38	Jeff Palmer	LS	5-10	200	Sr.	Dana Point, CA
31	Avery Patterson	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	Pittsburg, CA
62	Matt Pierson	OL	6-6	270	Fr.	West Linn
68	Jamal Prater	OL	6-4	290	Fr.	Etiwanda, CA
65	Isaac Remington	DT	6-6	286	Sr.	Queen Creek, AZ
49	Jackson Rice	P	6-3	225	Sr.	Moraga, CA
17	James Scales, III	DB	5-10	185	So.	Greensboro, NC
48	Eric Solis	PK	5-10	182	So.	Sherman Oaks, CA
41	Blake Stanton	WR	5-11	202	So.	Los Angeles, CA
54	Hamani Stevens	OL	6-3	305	So.	Hemet, CA
36	Jennings Stewart	LB	6-3	217	Sr.	Grants Pass
88	Tacoi Sumler	WR	5-9	173	Fr.	Miami, FL
86	Brian Teague	TE	6-3	258	Jr.	Portland
69	Brandon Thomas	OL	6-4	305	So.	West Linn
6	De'Anthony Thomas	RB	5-9	173	So.	Los Angeles, CA
59	Grant Thompson	LB	5-11	219	So.	Cottage Grove
10	Rahsaan Vaughn	WR	6-2	192	Sr.	Oakland, CA
98	Dallen Voeller	TE	6-3	210	So.	West Linn
35	Anthony Wallace	LB	6-0	235	So.	Dallas , TX
91	Tony Washington	DE	6-3	262	So.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
83	Curtis White	TE	6-4	245	So.	Eugene
30	Bronson Yim	DB	5-10	190	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
77	Carson York	OL	6-5	292	Sr.	Coeur d'Alene, ID
72	Andre Yruretagoyena	OL	6-5	285	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ

NOTEBOOK

All eyes are on Oregon's quarterback battle, and here is what offensive coordinator **Mark Helfrich** had to say about **Marcus Mariota's** impressive spring game:

"He introduced himself to the Duck fan base. That'll be a lasting first impression."

Mariota completed 18 of 26 passes for 202 yards and a touchdown, and he ran for 99 yards and two scores. The bulk of his rushing total came on an 82-yard score.

Sophomore **Bryan Bennett**, however, has the better arm strength.

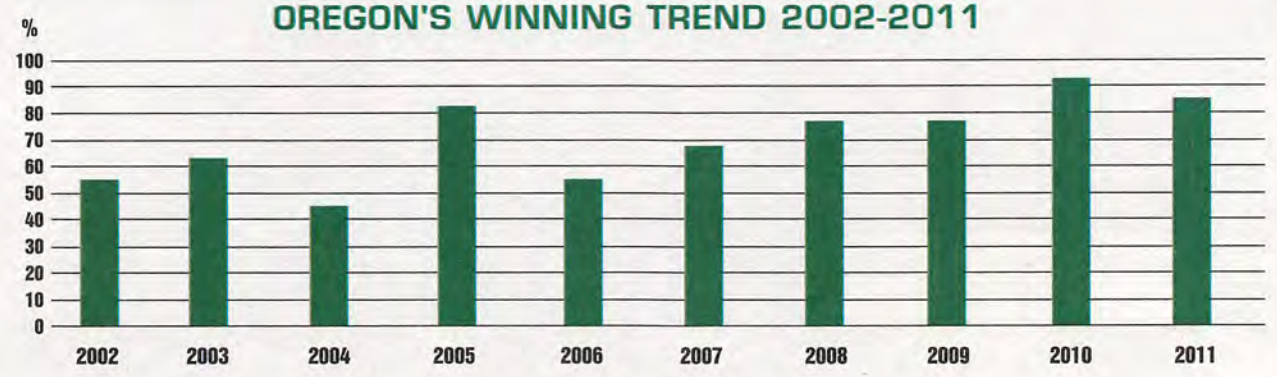
"If you were going to have a Jugs machine measurement, Bryan might win that," Helfrich said, comparing Bennett's arm to Mariota's. "But it wouldn't be, 'Oh, my gosh, he's Nolan Ryan and the other guy's Jamie Moyer.'"

Bennett wasn't pleased with his spring game, when he completed 19 of 32 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown.

"I felt like I had 14 good practices, and picked the wrong time to have a bad day," he said.

- **Kyle Long**, son of Oakland/L.A. Raiders great Howie Long, will join the Ducks in training camp. He's a 6-7, 290-pound offensive tackle, and he has a year of eligibility remaining after two years of JC ball. His brother, Chris, is a defensive lineman with the St. Louis Rams.
- Prep quarterback **Jake Rodrigues** enrolled in January and joined the Ducks for spring ball, although he was recovering from a broken leg suffered while at Whitney High in Rocklin, Calif.
- The UO defense has high aspirations. "We want to be the best defense in the country," linebacker **Michael Clay** said. "If we have that mindset, we could be the best."
- As Oregon headed into the summer, there were some clouds looming over the program, such as an NCAA investigation into possible recruiting violations. Also, receiver **Josh Huff** got into trouble in the offseason with a DUI arrest, and the Ducks were exposed for marijuana use in an *ESPN The Magazine* story.
- Already blessed with abundant numbers at receiver, the Ducks will have three more join the team in training camp: **Bralon Addison**, **Chase Allen** and **Dwayne Stanford**.

OREGON'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



Fisher, who played as a true freshman.

Barner and De'Anthony Thomas pack great credentials — Thomas had electrifying touchdown runs of 91 and 64 yards in the Rose Bowl. Beyond them and third-year receiver Josh Huff, the skill positions need to be solidified. Huff could be a backup running back option, along with true freshman Byron Marshall.

The athletic Colt Lyerla, who had five touchdown catches in 2011, should be the new starting tight end, while the Ducks have talent among their slew of young receivers, including Devon Blackmon and B.J. Kelley.

"Our guys believe 100 percent in what we're doing," offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "That's a huge deal."

DEFENSE

Dion Jordan, Michael Clay and John Boyett are the leaders of an experienced and potentially deep group.

The defensive line, where seven or eight players generally rotate, is loaded with Jordan, Taylor Hart, Wade Keliikipi, Tony Washington, Ricky Heimuli and Isaac Remington — and it got better with the addition of touted true freshman Arik Armstead, who joined the Ducks for spring ball.

"We can be really good," said Jordan, who had 13 tackles for loss, including 7.5 sacks last season. "It's going to take a lot of work, though. We have to be real stout; we have to stop the run and create pressure and get to the quarterback so we can help out the 'backers."

At linebacker, Michael Clay, Boseko Lokombo and Kiko Alonso all have NFL-caliber skills. Clay returns as the stalwart; Alonso earned Defensive MVP honors at the Rose Bowl; Lokombo shared time with Josh Kaddu. The Ducks continue to build linebacker depth.

"We're going to have to be the strength of the team to have a successful defensive year," Clay said of the linebackers. "We're like the glue."

Boyett, who has averaged seven tackles per game and has nine career interceptions, anchors a defensive backfield that also sports cornerbacks Terrance Mitchell, Troy Hill and Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, who all got ample experience as freshmen. The one question mark is the rover/strong safety position, with Eddie Pleasant's departure. Brian Jackson, who also has experience, and others will vie for the starting job.

Aliotti wants to continue to emphasize depth.

"We have probably as good of a first group as we've ever had," Aliotti said. "But I don't know if our overall depth at every position is as good as it's been. We want to play 23-25 guys. I don't think we're there, yet. If you get a couple of the wrong guys hurt ..."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Oregon will have a dynamic return game featuring the likes of De'Anthony Thomas and Josh Huff. With the Ducks' bounty of aggressive and fast players,

Dion Jordan
Photo by Joe Robbins

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 299.2 ypg rushing (1st in Pac-12/5th NCAA), 223.6 passing (10th/68th), 522.8 total offense (1st/4th), 46.1 ppg (1st/3rd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Bryan Bennett	So.	2011: 54.3 percent passing, 8.7 yards per carry.	Marcus Mariota, Fr.
RB	Kenjon Barner	Sr.	Has 27 career TDs; durability issues?	Byron Marshall, Fr.
WR	De'Anthony Thomas	So.	Classic hybrid player; has added weight.	Blake Stanton, So.
WR	Josh Huff*	Jr.	Had 31 catches for 430 yards, two TDs in '11.	B.J. Kelley, Fr.
WR	Rahsaan Vaughn	Sr.	Made 14 catches for 184 yards last season.	Daryle Hawkins, Jr.
TE	Colt Lyerla	So.	A terrific athlete who needs to work on blocking.	Evan Baylis, Fr.
LT	Jake Fisher	So.	He surprised last season as a true freshman.	Kyle Long, Sr.
LG	Carson York*	Sr.	Coming off patella tendon surgery.	Mana Greig, Jr.
C	Hroniss Grasu*	So.	Played solidly throughout his first season.	Karrington Armstrong, Jr.
RG	Ryan Clanton	Sr.	Has the requisite nasty disposition for OL.	Everett Benyard, Jr.
RT	Nick Cody*	Sr.	Solidified the right tackle position in 2011.	James Euscher, Fr.
K	Alejandro Maldonado*	Jr.	Missed a 37-yard FG vs. USC.	Rob Beard, Sr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 142.8 ypg rushing (5th in Pac-12/54th NCAA), 247.3 passing (5th/88th), 390.1 total defense (5th/67th), 24.6 ppg (5th/52nd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Tony Washington	So.	He's an athletic counter to Dion Jordan at end.	Arik Armstead, Fr.
DT	Wade Keliikipi*	Jr.	Big game at UW in 2011 included (1.5 sacks).	Isaac Remington, Sr.
DT	Taylor Hart*	Jr.	He's 6-6 with a high motor; had 44 tackles in '11.	Ricky Heimuli, Jr.
DE	Dion Jordan*	Sr.	Long and athletic (6-7, 240).	Jared Ebert, Jr.
LB	Boseko Lokombo	Jr.	Scored three defensive touchdowns in 2011.	Tyson Coleman, Fr.
LB	Kiko Alonso	Sr.	Is troubled past behind him?	Anthony Wallace, So.
LB	Michael Clay*	Sr.	Great instincts; made 102 tackles last season.	Rodney Hardrick, So.
CB	Terrance Mitchell*	So.	Had two interceptions as a freshman.	Troy Hill, So.
CB	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	So.	Versatile defensive back at 5-10, 182 pounds.	Dior Mathis, So.
SS	Brian Jackson	Jr.	He's a leader at a competitive position.	Erick Dargan, So.
FS	John Boyett*	Sr.	Leading tackler in '11 (108) and in Rose Bowl (17).	Avery Patterson, Jr.
P	Jackson Rice*	Sr.	Has averaged 42.7 yards per punt for his career.	Dylan Ausherman, Jr.

*Returning Starter

DUCKS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Bralon Addison	WR	5-10	182	★★★★	Missouri City, TX	Hightower
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Texas…Rated as the nation's No. 18 wide receiver…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Chance Allen	WR	6-3	191	★★★	Missouri City, TX	Elkins
Rated as the nation's No. 94 wide receiver by Rivals.com… Had 52 receptions for 892 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 51 passes for 678 yards and eight TDs as a junior.						
Eric Amoako	DB	5-11	190	★★★	Arlington, TX	Martin
Rated as the nation's No. 57 safety by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Kansas State, Minnesota, North Texas, Pittsburgh and Purdue…Had 59 tackles and three interceptions as a junior.						
Stephen Amoako	DB	6-0	190	★★★	Arlington, TX	Martin
Rated as the nation's No. 62 cornerback by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Kansas State, Minnesota, North Texas, Pittsburgh and Purdue… Had 20 tackles, five pass breakups and three interceptions as a senior.						
Arik Armstead	DE	6-8	300	★★★★	Elk Grove, CA	Pleasant Grove
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 10 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 6 strongside defensive end…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Dylan Ausherman	K	6-3	180	★★	Visalia, CA	College of the Sequoias
Had six punts of 50-plus yards…Chose Oregon over offers from Louisiana Tech, San Diego State and Utah.						
Brett Bafaro	LB	6-2	220	★★★★	Hillsboro, OR	Liberty
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 23 outside linebacker…Recorded 91 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and six sacks as a senior.						
Stetzon Bair	DT	6-8	265	★★★	Council Bluffs, IA	Iowa Western C.C.
Recorded 22 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and seven sacks in 2011… Younger brother of former Oregon defensive tackle Brandon Blair.						
Alex Balducci	DE	6-4	262	★★★★	Portland, OR	Central Catholic
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Oregon…Rated as the nation's No. 8 strongside defensive end…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Evan Baylis	TE	6-5	225	★★★★	Aurora, CO	Grandview
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 9 tight end…Had 24 receptions for 225 yards and two touchdowns as a senior…Caught 33 passes for 456 yards and six TDs as a junior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Pharaoh Brown	TE	6-6	220	★★★★	Lyndhurst, OH	Brush
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Ohio…Rated as the nation's No. 3 tight end…Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
DeForest Buckner	DE	6-7	230	★★★★	Honolulu, HI	Punahou
Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 17 strongside defensive end… Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Cody Carriger	DE	6-6	230	★★	Butte, MT	Butte
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in the Rocky Mountain states by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Montana, Montana State, Washington and Wyoming.						
Terrence Daniel	DE	6-6		★★★	Oakland, CA	Bishop O'Dowd
Rated as the No. 76 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 45 strongside defensive end…Recorded 63 tackles and 7.5 sacks as a senior.						
Reggie Daniels	DB	6-0	170	★★★	Chandler, AZ	Hamilton
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 23 safety…Had 90 tackles, three sacks, five interceptions and six pass breakups as a senior.						
Oshay Dunmore	ATH	6-2	195	★★★	Newport, OR	Newport
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 36 athlete… Passed for 790 yards and eight touchdowns, while rushing for 2,134 yards and 25 TDs as a senior.						
Jeff Lockie	QB	6-2	175	★★★	Danville, CA	Monte Vista
Rated as the No. 91 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Threw for 3,278 yards and 31 touchdowns a senior.						
Kyle Long	OL	6-7	290	★★★	Mission Viejo, CA	Saddleback C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 30 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon over Arkansas, Florida State, Louisiana Tech, SMU, Tennessee, UCLA and Utah… Son of NFL Hall of Famer Howie Long.						
Byron Marshall	RB	5-10	195	★★★★	San Jose, CA	Valley Christian
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 17 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 8 running back…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Jake Rodrigues	QB	6-3	210	★★★★	Rocklin, CA	Whitney
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 24 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 5 pro-style quarterback…Threw for 2,036 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior.						
Dwayne Stanford	WR	6-5	185	★★★★	Cincinnati, OH	Taft
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Ohio…Rated as the nation's No. 23 wide receiver…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						

A LOOK AT THE DUCKS

RESULTS

	12-2, 9-1	
L	at LSU	27-40
W	NEVADA	69-20
W	MISSOURI STATE	56-7
W	at Arizona	56-31
W	CALIFORNIA	43-15
W	ARIZONA STATE	41-27
W	at Colorado	45-2
W	WASHINGTON STATE	43-28
W	at Washington	34-17
W	at Stanford	53-30
L	USC	35-38
W	OREGON STATE	49-21
	Pac-12 Championship Game	
W	UCLA	49-31
	Rose Bowl	
W	vs. Wisconsin	45-38

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
Da. Thomas	13	211	339	7	62.2	2761	33
B. Bennett	8	25	46	0	54.3	369	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
L. James	12	247	1805	7.3	18	90	150.4
K. Barner	12	152	939	6.2	11	84	78.2
De. Thomas	14	55	595	10.8	7	91	42.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
L. Tuinei	14	48	599	12.5	10	55	42.8
De. Thomas	14	46	605	13.2	9	69	43.2
D. Paulson	14	31	438	14.1	6	34	31.3

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Boyett 108, M. Clay 102, D. Stuckey 69
Tackles for loss: D. Jordan 13, J. Kaddu 9.5, T. Turner 9
Sacks: D. Jordan 7.5, J. Kaddu 6.5, T. Turner 5.5
Interceptions: E. Pleasant 3, four tied with 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	ARKANSAS STATE	10-3
Sept. 8	FRESNO STATE	4-9
Sept. 15	TENNESSEE TECH	7-4
Sept. 22	ARIZONA	4-8
Sept. 29	vs. Washington State (Seattle)	4-8
Oct. 6	WASHINGTON	7-6
Oct. 18	at Arizona State	6-7
Oct. 27	COLORADO	3-10
Nov. 3	at USC	10-2
Nov. 10	at California	7-6
Nov. 17	STANFORD	11-2
Nov. 24	at Oregon State	3-9

PLAYER PROFILE

Kenjon Barner
Photo by Joe Robbins

Barner Gets Chance To Be Lead Runner

There was a moment of confusion for running back Kenjon Barner during Oregon's spring game.

"I'm kind of looking around like, 'My partner isn't here,'" Barner said.

Barner's partner for the last few years was, of course, star Oregon running back LaMichael James. While James was tearing up defenses and setting UO records, including career rushing yards (5,082) and total touchdowns (58), Barner was a sidekick and backup to his close friend.

After his junior season, James declared for the NFL Draft and was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the second round with the 61st overall pick. Now, after waiting in the wings for the past three years, Barner will be Oregon's featured running back.

Barner barely played during the Oregon spring scrimmage, but by the end of the day, he had started to feel more comfortable without his partner.

"The opportunity to be the starter, it's extremely exciting," Barner said. "I can't help but get excited about it."

Barner, a 5-11, 195-pound senior from Riverside, Calif., has always been a very high quality backup.

He came to UO as a running back, then switched to defensive back during his first year at Oregon in 2008. The next year, Barner returned to tailback. In 2009, he rushed for 366 yards and three touchdowns on 61 carries.

Over the next two seasons, Barner's reps began increasing ... and so did his production. In 2010, he rushed 91 times for 551 yards and six touchdowns. Barner had his best season for the Ducks last year when he turned 152 carries into 939 yards and 11 scores.

He also has 34 receptions for 335 yards and five touchdowns — including a score in the Rose Bowl.

"Kenjon could be one of the best running backs in the Pac-12," James said last year. "I always say that I got the break before him, but he's a phenomenal player."

Oregon enters the season without much depth at running back. That means it's imperative that Barner, who has missed time with injuries in the past two seasons, stay healthy throughout the season.

"It's just a matter of taking better care of my body," Barner said.

Now that his opportunity has come, Barner is taking nothing for granted.

"I've still got a lot of work to do," Barner said. "But I feel ready."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR/RB De'Anthony Thomas

Had a sensational true freshman year, with 1,200 yards rushing/receiving and 18 total TDs. ... Only player in nation with 400-plus yards rushing, receiving and returning. ... Pac-12 Co-Freshman of the Year and a Freshman All-American by *The Sporting News*. ... Had Rose Bowl-record 91-yard TD run. ... Los Angeles prep legend nicknamed the "Black Mamba" by rapper Snoop Dogg. ... Gained weight, saying, "I felt like I needed to do that. But I still have my speed."

EMERGING STAR

DL Dion Jordan

Nicknamed the "Praying Mantis," because of his long, lanky, 6-7 frame. ... Entered UO as a receiver and switched to tight end before landing at defensive end. ... Named first-team All-Pac-12 by coaches last season, when he still was just scratching the surface of his potential. ... Had 7.5 sacks in 2011. ... Has his eyes on an NFL career. "It's time to make the dream a reality," he said. "When it's time for me to get there, I'll be ready."

TOP NEWCOMER

DL Arik Armstead

The 6-8, 300-pound true freshman is a *Parade* All-American from Elk Grove, Calif. ... He enrolled early for spring ball and should contribute immediately. "I felt comfortable right off the bat. I came in prepared and ready to just work," he said, adding he has "no doubts" he'll play well in 2012. ... Also plans to play basketball at Oregon. ... Wears No. 9 in honor of uncle Buggy Armstead, who passed away in 2009. ... Draws comparisons to former Duck star DT Haloti Ngata.

coverage teams usually excel.

Senior Rob Beard and junior Alejandro Maldonado will compete for placekicking duties. Maldonado took over the job last season when Beard suffered a leg injury — he missed a potential tying field goal in a home loss to USC. They have combined to go 18 of 29 on field-goal attempts in their careers.

Senior punter Jackson Rice was a finalist for the Ray Guy Award last season, averaging 45.9 yards per punt — he's at 42.7 for his career.

"I wasn't satisfied," Rice said. "I'm trying to be the best in the nation. I'm not going to sugar-coat that one."

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The first three Saturdays should get the quarterbacks and other players experience, and help the Ducks refine their game — it'll be Arkansas State, Fresno State and Tennessee Tech at Autzen Stadium, all expected blowouts.

The Pac-12 season starts at home against Arizona (Sept. 22), and Mike Leach's pass-happy WSU team could challenge the Ducks at Seattle's CenturyLink Field (Sept. 29), as could quarterback Keith Price's Washington Huskies at home (Oct. 6).

After games with ASU and Colorado, a potentially undefeated UO team visits USC on Nov. 3, and the Ducks face a quality opponent in Cal on the road Nov. 10 — the Bears nearly beat the Ducks in Berkeley in 2010.

Stanford visits Eugene, and the Ducks play at rival Oregon State to close out the regular season.

— Jason Vondersmith and Stephen Alexander

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

For more coverage of the Beavers, visit oregonstate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Danny Langsdorf **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Mark Banker **STADIUM:** Reser Stadium: 45,674

AT A GLANCE

2011:
3-9, 3-6 Pac-12 (5th, North)

COACH:
Mike Riley — At Oregon State and overall: 72-63, 11 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
16; 7 offense, 8 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Sean Mannion, WR Markus Wheaton, WR Brandin Cooks, DE Scott Crichton, DE Dylan Wynn, LB Michael Doctor, CB Jordan Poyer

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Many of the young players at the skill positions from a year ago gained experience. That should lead to a better showing this season, particularly in the passing game. Mannion has potential in his second season as the starter.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The offensive line will be revamped in training camp with the return of injured starters and an infusion of recruits. If they can't mesh quickly, the run and pass blocking will be late developing. A game vs. Wisconsin and two Pac-12 road games in the first month will be tricky.

KEY LOSSES:
WR James Rodgers, LB Cameron Collins, S Lance Mitchell, P Johnny Hekker

OVERVIEW:
There's a sense of urgency from the players and coaches due to the pressure of two straight losing seasons. Oregon State went with a young team last year and battled injuries. If they can stay healthy this year and learn from their mistakes, the Beavers have the ability to reach a bowl game. Success will depend on how the offensive line develops.

It's All on the Line This Season for Oregon State

How the Oregon State season turns out might come down to the basic task of offensive line blocking.

The Beavers struggled mightily in the past two seasons opening holes for running backs. Last season, they had the additional problem of pass blocking.

Oregon State was 118th out of 120 FBS teams in rushing with an average of 86.9 yards a game. The Beavers' top ball carrier, Malcolm Agnew, gained only 419 yards. The team numbers were skewed with the 27 sacks for minus-213 yards.

A new offensive line must be quickly assembled before the season. At least two of the seven incoming recruits for the line are expected to eventually start, and injuries kept two returners on the sidelines during the spring.

Freshman Isaac Seumalo can play center, guard or tackle; junior college transfer Stan Hasiak — who began his career at UCLA — can be a guard or tackle. They will fill in where needed. Seumalo, being from Corvallis, Ore., watched every spring practice to learn what's expected.

"We don't know who will surface besides Isaac and Hasiak," coach Mike Riley said. "We will look at our talent and place them in the best place we can for them and our team."

Offensive guard Josh Andrews, tackle Colin Kelly and guard Grant Enger return as starters. Kelly missed most of the spring after ankle surgery and Enger sat out after shoulder surgery.

Tackle Michael Philipp, a Freshman All-American, returns after a year off due to knee surgery right before last season. He had a strong spring and is ready to be a factor again.

"There will be a restructuring in fall camp," Riley said. "It will be the least defined group. There's no doubt there is more work to do there. There will be open competition in all the positions."

OFFENSE

Until there's a consistent running game, the offense falls on the arm of quarterback Sean Mannion. The sophomore showed his inexperience as a first-year starter last season, but Riley expects him to improve dramatically.

Mannion possesses the size (6-5, 215) and arm to be the next standout pocket passer for the Beavers. He threw for 3,332 yards and 16 touchdowns with a 64.5 percent completion rate as a freshman. The only issue — and it's a big one — was the 18 interceptions.

A porous line was the main cause of the turnovers, and defenses knew Mannion would pass most of the time. He focused on his accuracy and quicker release in the offseason.

"There are things to improve and a lot of things to work on, like turnovers," Mannion said. "I'm more comfortable now. If I can continue to work, we'll get better."

There are plenty of targets to throw to in senior Markus Wheaton and speedy up-and-coming sophomore Brandin Cooks. Starting slot receiver Jordan Bishop missed his second spring due to another ankle surgery. Obum Gwacham moved to the slot and is expected to be used more.

Depth at tight end emerged with senior Colby Prince and sophomores Connor Hamlett and Tyler Perry. When the tight end is involved in the passing game, the offense runs at its peak.

Freshman running back Storm Woods, who redshirted last season, could spark the ground game. Terron Ward was the starter at the end of the season due to his consistency.

Malcolm Agnew began last season as the starter, but was hampered with lingering hamstring issues. If he's healthy, the Beavers have three capable ball carriers.

"We got guys who are all solid players and will play a lot for us, but we need

Markus Wheaton
Photo by Steve Conner/Icon SMI

BEAVERS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
63	Justin Addie	OL	6-2	323	Fr.	Mesa, AZ
35	Malcolm Agnew	RB	5-8	204	So.	Chesterfield, MO
55	Shaydon Akuna	LB	6-2	249	So.	Nanakuli, HI
96	Noa Aluesi	DT	6-6	281	Fr.	Portland
33	Tyler Anderson	FB	5-10	215	So.	Walnut Creek, CA
69	Josh Andrews	OG	6-2	297	Jr.	Fontana, CA
9	Peter Ashton	S	6-1	211	Fr.	Keller, TX
37	Micah Audiss	S	6-1	206	Fr.	Roseburg
49	Michael Balfour	FB	5-8	234	Fr.	Sherwood
59	Lavonte Barnett	DE	6-1	236	Fr.	Lancaster, CA
51	Michael Beaton	OL	6-3	292	So.	Dallas
37	Jeff Bedbury	WR	5-10	190	So.	Eugene
54	Brandon Bennett-Jackson	DT	6-1	267	Fr.	Birmingham, AL
23	Jordan Bishop	WR	6-3	207	Sr.	West Salem
76	John Braun	DE	6-5	274	Jr.	Lebanon
83	Kellen Clute	TE	6-4	246	Fr.	Spokane, WA
68	Desmond Collins	DT	6-2	269	Fr.	Salt Lake City, UT
13	Brandin Cooks	WR	5-9	177	So.	Stockton, CA
10	Cade Cowdin	LB	6-2	220	Jr.	St. George, UT
95	Scott Crichton	DE	6-3	263	So.	Tacoma, WA
84	Kevin Cummings	WR	6-1	180	Jr.	Culver City, CA
23	Mishawn Cummings	CB	5-9	185	So.	San Jose, CA
40	Michael Doctor	LB	6-0	223	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
39	Kyle Egan	LB	5-11	235	So.	Danville, CA
71	Grant Enger	OL	6-5	282	Jr.	Bothell, WA
32	Danny Evans	CB	6-3	189	Sr.	Pine Bluff, AR
56	Rusty Fernando	DE	6-3	242	Sr.	Apache Junction, AZ
6	Kramer Ferrell	WR	5-10	182	Fr.	Ellensburg, WA
78	Rudolf Fifita	DE	6-3	263	Sr.	Euless, TX
53	Kyle Gardner	LB	5-10	225	Fr.	Corvallis
51	Charlie Gilmur	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Tacoma, WA
60	Akeem Gonzales	DE	6-3	233	Fr.	Pasadena, CA
86	Obum Gwacham	WR	6-5	224	So.	Chino Hills, CA
89	Connor Hamlett	TE	6-7	259	So.	Edmonds, WA
21	Ryan Handford	CB	5-9	204	Sr.	New Brunswick, NJ
99	Blake Harrah	DT	6-1	262	Jr.	Temecula, CA
5	Richie Harrington	QB	6-1	223	Fr.	Westlake Village, CA
81	Micah Hatfield	WR	6-1	178	Jr.	Lake Oswego
72	Darryl Jackson	OT	6-6	286	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
48	Jaswha James	LB	6-1	251	Fr.	Inglewood, CA
34	Jordan Jenkins	RB	6-1	209	Sr.	Salem
44	Jabral Johnson	LB	6-0	234	So.	Lawton, OK
94	Devon Kell	DE	6-4	250	Jr.	Hilo, HI
64	Colin Kelly	OT	6-5	298	Sr.	Kelso, WA
48	Keith Kostol	P	6-3	189	So.	Tigard
17	Jack Lomax	QB	6-3	171	Jr.	Lake Oswego
79	Joe Lopez	DT	6-0	273	So.	Portland
4	Sean Mannion	QB	6-5	215	So.	Pleasanton, CA
22	Malcolm Marable	CB	5-7	172	So.	Pasadena, CA
6	Sean Martin	CB	6-0	186	Jr.	Corona, CA
98	Castro Masaniai	DT	6-3	351	Sr.	Waipahu, HI
26	Tim McMullen	P	6-3	232	Jr.	Parkdale, Australia
1	Andrew Mikkelsen	PK	6-1	192	Fr.	Canby
58	Michael Morovick	LS	6-0	223	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
8	Richard Mullaney	WR	6-1	191	Fr.	Thousand Oaks, CA
18	Geno Munoz	WR	6-0	195	Sr.	Tacoma, WA
25	Ryan Murphy	S	6-3	213	So.	Oakland, CA
75	Derek Nielsen	OL	6-4	286	So.	Eugene
20	Keynan Parker	CB	5-11	178	Sr.	New Westminster, B.C.
27	Naji Patrick	CB	5-8	190	Fr.	Vallejo, CA
88	Tyler Perry	TE	6-4	256	So.	Ventura, CA
77	Michael Philipp	OT	6-4	324	Jr.	San Bernardino, CA
14	Jordan Poyer	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Astoria
82	Colby Prince	TE	6-5	262	Sr.	Albany
40	Tyler Renne	FB	5-9	249	Fr.	Belfair, VA
16	Rashaad Reynolds	CB	5-10	186	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
90	Ali'i Robins	DE	6-1	270	Fr.	Ewa Beach, HI
13	Rueben Robinson	LB	6-3	235	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
12	Trevor Romaine	PK	5-11	200	So.	Corona, CA
93	Mana Rosa	DT	6-3	275	Jr.	Haiku, HI
30	Zeke Sanders	LB	6-1	212	Jr.	Santa Cruz, CA
65	Roman Sapolu	C	6-2	284	So.	Huntington Beach, CA
91	Caleb Saulo	LB	6-2	215	So.	Kent, WA
15	Larry Scott	CB	5-11	192	Fr.	Corona, CA
49	Andrew Seumalo	DT	6-3	287	Sr.	Corvallis
21	Mitch Singler	WR	6-2	208	Jr.	Medford
85	Austin Slade-Matautia	TE	6-2	223	Fr.	Aiea, HI
10	Caleb Smith	TE	6-6	250	Fr.	Renton, WA
19	Jovan Stevenson	RB	5-11	185	Jr.	Tucson, AZ
29	Will Storey	LB	6-1	227	Fr.	Lake Oswego
46	Shiloah Te'o	LB	5-10	221	Sr.	Laie, HI
9	Tyler Trosin	WR	5-10	192	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
97	Mana Tuivailala	DT	6-3	273	So.	Seaside, CA
41	Kevin Unga	LB	6-1	248	Sr.	Rochester, CA
14	Cody Vaz	QB	6-0	198	Jr.	Lodi, CA
73	David Vieru	OL	6-3	330	Fr.	Portland
28	Terron Ward	RB	5-7	192	So.	Antioch, CA
3	Anthony Watkins	S	6-1	217	Sr.	Burien, WA
38	Brian Watkins	CB	5-9	185	Sr.	Burien, WA
4	D.J. Welch	LB	6-2	220	So.	Palm Desert, CA
67	Jake Welch	OL	6-2	322	Fr.	Longview, WA
52	Troy Whalen	LS	6-2	199	Fr.	Concord, CA
2	Markus Wheaton	WR	6-0	180	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
47	Josh Williams	LB	6-0	239	So.	Los Angeles, CA
31	Storm Woods	RB	5-10	202	Fr.	Pflugerville, TX
45	Dylan Wynn	DE	6-2	265	So.	Concord, CA
42	Clayton York	FB	6-0	235	Sr.	Redmond
8	Tyrequek Zimmerman	S	5-11	206	So.	St. Matthews, SC

NOTEBOOK

The offseason began with the stunning death of freshman defensive tackle **Fred Thompson** on Dec. 7, four days away from his 20th birthday.

Thompson was playing basketball with teammates at an on-campus recreation center when he collapsed and died from complications of an enlarged heart.

Oregon State needed an extended time to recover from the loss of one the most well-liked players on the team.

"This is a devastating and tragic event for all of us here," coach **Mike Riley** said. "This is just one of those things you never want to be a part of. We'll never forget Fred. I was so proud of him. He'd come a long way since he got here."

Thompson was an up-and-coming player who was expected to be a starter this season.

• **Rod Perry** was hired as the secondary coach after Keith Heyward left for rival Washington. He has coached and played in the Super Bowl. Perry is a 22-year assistant coach in the NFL, including a three-year run from 1999-2001 with the San Diego Chargers when Riley was the head coach.

• Former linebacker **Trent Bray** was brought in as a graduate assistant, but he'll coach the linebackers and allow defensive coordinator **Mark Banker** to concentrate on being a coordinator without coaching a position group.

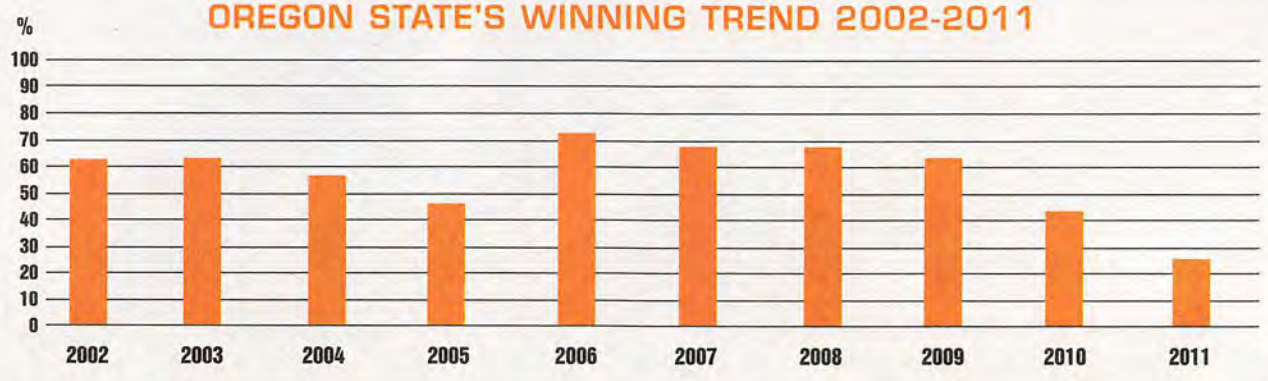
Bray, 29, coached the linebackers the last three years at Arizona State, and was the Pac-12's youngest coach. He always wanted to be a coach and follow his father's footsteps. Craig Bray was a defensive coordinator at various colleges, including Oregon State.

"In every sense of the word he's a football player," Banker said. "He has been around the game a long time. He brings intensity from playing the position. And you can never substitute for that."

• Fans are restless about the two straight losing seasons, and some think Riley is on the hot seat. Athletic director **Bob De Carolis** doesn't want to address the situation since Riley has eight years left on his contract going into this season. A buyout would be costly.

"I've been around this long enough to know to only worry about the next season," Riley said. "A 3-9 year is very motivating. No one wants that kind of disappointment again."

OREGON STATE'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



someone who can do all the parts," Riley said, looking for a runner who can also catch and pass block.

None of the top candidates is a reliable pass blocker. Riley hopes to see development from the backs in that area in training camp before naming a starter; if he doesn't, Riley might have to go with the situational committee that had limited success last year.

DEFENSE

The secondary is the strength of the defense, at least if the front seven can pressure the quarterback enough. Both cornerbacks return with Jordan Poyer and Rashaad Reynolds.

Poyer was second-team all-conference last season with four interceptions and 12 pass breakups. (Poyer was arrested in mid-May on a misdemeanor charge of second-degree criminal trespass at a Corvallis bar.)

"Jordan is poised for a big year and I'm proud of Rashaad's dedication," Riley said. "We need more guys who can play corner other than the first guys. We have good safeties, and we'll have plenty of recruits to fill out the depth in the fall."

Safety Anthony Watkins, the team's leading tackler last season with 85, had offseason shoulder surgery and missed spring practice. Ryan Murphy established himself as a playmaker at safety in the spring.

The outside linebacker combo of Michael Doctor and D.J. Welch gives the defense speed. Doctor returns as a starter, while Welch impressed the coaches on special teams as a true freshman last year.

Middle linebacker Kevin Unga comes back healthy after a calf injury limited his participation much of last season. His backup, senior Rueben Robinson, is a versatile veteran who played inside and out.

Depth is a concern at linebacker. Young second-string outside linebackers Jabral Johnson and Shaydon Akuna were supplemented with junior college transfers Cade Cowdin and Dyllon Mafi.

Sophomore defensive ends Scott Crichton and Dylan Wynn anchor the line as returning starters. There's depth with senior backups Rudolf Fifita and Rusty Fernando.

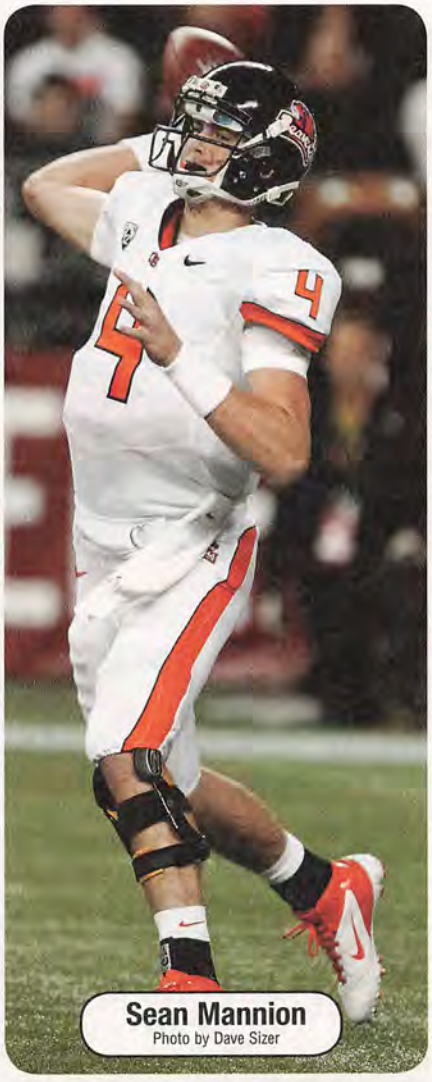
Castro Masaniai returns at tackle, but he hasn't made it through the last two seasons because of broken legs. Andrew Seumalo and Mana Rosa provide depth inside.

The big question about the line: Can it stand up to Pac-12 offensive linemen? Oregon State was blown off the ball much of the time last season, allowing 196.8 rushing yards per game, which ranked 101st in the nation.

"We are developing depth there with six to eight guys who will be good players," Riley said.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Trevor Romaine hopes to rebound from his inconsistencies. He was 15 of 22 on field-goal attempts with five



Sean Mannion
Photo by Dave Sizer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 86.9 ypg rushing (12th in Pac-12/118th NCAA), 286.8 passing (5th/19th), 373.7 total offense (10th/73rd), 21.8 ppg (11th/100th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Sean Mannion*	So.	Completed 64.5 percent of passes, but had 18 INTs.	Cody Vaz, Jr.
RB	Terron Ward	So.	Ended the season as starter, could change by first game.	Malcolm Agnew, So.
WR	Markus Wheaton*	Sr.	Team needs him to be the standout he's capable of being.	Geno Munoz, Sr.
WR	Brandin Cooks	So.	He's a speedy, good-hands breakout star waiting to happen.	Micah Hatfield, Jr.
WR	Jordan Bishop*	Sr.	Coming off his second straight offseason with ankle surgery.	Obum Gwacham, So.
TE	Colby Prince*	Sr.	Stellar blocker who worked on his receiving to play full time.	Connor Hamlett, So.
LT	Colin Kelly*	Sr.	Had ankle surgery, missed spring practice; is ready for the fall.	Derek Nielsen, So.
LG	Josh Andrews*	Jr.	Plays with a passion that the rest of the linemen must find.	Michael Beaton, So.
C	Roman Sapolu	So.	Groomed to be next center, but must hold off newcomers.	Isaac Seumalo, Fr.
RG	Grant Enger*	Jr.	Missed the spring after shoulder surgery, fighting to keep job.	Stan Hasiak, Jr.
RT	Michael Philipp	Jr.	Healthy after redshirting last year because of knee surgery.	Justin Addie, Fr.
K	Trevor Romaine*	So.	Two of his seven misses last season came from 50 yards.	Keith Kostol, So.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 196.8 ypg rushing (12th Pac-12/101st NCAA), 214.4 passing (2nd/46th), 411.3 total defense (7th/84th), 30.8 ppg (7th/89th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Scott Crichton*	So.	Led team with six sacks and six forced fumbles.	Rusty Fernando, Sr.
DT	Andrew Seumalo	Sr.	Coaches considered him the best on D-line after the spring.	Mana Rosa, Jr.
DT	Castro Masaniai*	Sr.	Returned to spring practice late after broken leg in season.	Mana Tuivailala, So.
DE	Dylan Wynn*	So.	Took over starting job midseason and recovered five fumbles.	Rudolf Fifita, Sr.
LB	Michael Doctor*	Jr.	Veteran hard-hitter poised for a big season.	Cade Cowdin, Jr.
LB	Kevin Unga*	Sr.	Led the Pac-12 in tackles before midseason calf injury.	Rueben Robinson, Sr.
LB	D.J. Welch	So.	Coaches believe his speed on outside will make an impact.	Jabral Johnson, So.
CB	Jordan Poyer*	Sr.	Big-play, shut-down corner working on his NFL credentials.	Keynan Parker, Sr.
CB	Rashaad Reynolds*	Jr.	Made plays when opponents stayed away from Poyer.	Malcolm Marable, So.
S	Anthony Watkins*	Sr.	Led team in tackling last year, and needed shoulder surgery.	Tyrequek Zimmerman, So.
S	Ryan Murphy	So.	Has a knack for the ball in coverage and as run-stopper.	Peter Ashton, Fr.
P	Tim McMullen	Jr.	Averaged 41.0 yards in junior college in 2010.	Keith Kostol, So.

*Returning Starter

BEAVERS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Gavin Andrews	OL	6-5	280	★★★	Granite Bay, CA	Granite Bay
Rated as the No. 87 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon State over Arizona, Boise State, Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Washington State.						
Grant Bays	OL	6-3	290	★★★	Oceanside, CA	Oceanside
Rated as the No. 89 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 10 offensive center.						
Chris Brown	RB	5-11	200	★★★	Fresno, CA	San Joaquin Memorial
Rated as the No. 49 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 24 running back…Participated in the Cal State All-Star Game.						
Cade Cowdin	LB	6-2	220	★★★	Palm Desert, CA	College of the Desert
All-state and all-region selection in high school…Chose Oregon State over Iowa State, Miami, Nevada, New Mexico State, USF, UNLV, Western Michigan and Wyoming.						
Chase Eldredge	OL	6-4	260	★★	Palos Verdes Estates, CA	Palos Verdes
All-league selection as a junior and senior…Helped lead team to 18-5 record over final two seasons.						
Malik Gilmore	WR	6-3	195	★★★	Lakewood, CA	Lakewood
Rated as the No. 42 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 52 wide receiver…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Stanley Hasiak	OL	6-5	305	★★★	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Began his career at UCLA out of Kapolei High School in Hawaii…Late addition to the Oregon State class.						
Tyler Hasty	DB	6-0	180	★★★	Bellevue, WA	Bellevue
Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon State over Colorado and Idaho.						
Kendall Hill	DB	6-3	175	★★	La Marque, TX	La Marque
Had 46 receptions for 766 yards and four touchdowns as a senior…Chose Oregon State over Utah.						
Dyllon Mafi	LB	6-3	215	★★★	Oakland, CA	Laney C.C.
First-team all-conference selection…Had 21 tackles in 2011.						
Rommel Mageo	DE	6-2	220	★★	Pago Pago, NA	Samoana
Played on the 2011 International Federation of American Football Team vs. a team from the USA…Brother played on the defensive line at NC State.						
Chris Miller	DB	6-1	195	★★★	Pomona, CA	Diamond Ranch
Rated as the nation's No. 60 safety by Rivals.com…All-league selection as a defensive back…Also played running back.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Josh Mitchell	OL	6-3	273	★★★	Snoqualmie, WA	Mount Si
First-team all-state selection…Also a heavyweight state champion wrestler…Chose Oregon State over Montana, Washington State and Wyoming.						
Cyril Noland	DB	6-0	193	★★★	Ruston, LA	Ruston
Rated as the No. 31 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com…Chose Oregon State over Louisiana Tech, Louisiana-Monroe, Memphis and North Texas.						
Garrett Owens	K	5-9	165	★★	Arroyo Grande, CA	Arroyo Grande
Had three 50-plus yard field goals in his career and connected on a 57-yarder as a senior…Chose Oregon State over Air Force.						
Zack Robinson	WR	6-2	195	★★★	Tahlequah, OK	Sequoyah
Caught 33 passes for 571 yards and eight touchdowns and had 27 tackles, three interceptions and seven pass breakups as a senior…Chose Oregon State over Memphis, Mississippi State, Missouri and Missouri State.						
Caleb Saulo	LB	6-2	215	★★	Kent, WA	Kentlake
All-league selection…Had 49.5 tackles as a senior…Chose Oregon State over Army and Portland State.						
Isaac Seumalo	OL	6-3	280	★★★★	Corvallis, OR	Corvallis
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Oregon…Rated as the nation's No. 3 offensive guard…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Joel Skotte	LB	6-2	225	★★★	Bend, OR	Mountain View
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 33 inside linebacker.						
Caleb Smith	TE	6-6	250	★★★★	Renton, WA	Kentridge
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 11 tight end.						
Dustin Stanton	TE	6-6	210	★★★	Marysville, WA	Lakewood
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 32 tight end.						
Brent VanderVeen	QB	6-5	203	★★★	Arroyo Grande, CA	Arroyo Grande
Rated as the No. 56 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 11 dual-threat quarterback.						
Garrett Weinreich	OL	6-6	290	★★★	Arroyo Grande, CA	Arroyo Grande
Rated as the No. 94 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 41 offensive guard.						

A LOOK AT THE BEAVERS

RESULTS

3-9, 3-6

L	SACRAMENTO STATE (OT)	28-29
L	at Wisconsin	0-35
L	UCLA	19-27
L	at Arizona State	20-35
W	ARIZONA	37-27
L	BYU	28-38
W	at Washington State	44-21
L	at Utah	8-27
L	STANFORD	13-38
L	at California	6-23
W	WASHINGTON	38-21
L	at Oregon	21-49

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
S. Mannion	12	305	473	18	64.5	3332	16
R. Katz	2	13	25	1	52.0	104	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Agnew	6	89	419	4.8	5	30	70.5
J. Stevenson	9	57	231	4.0	5	22	25.4
T. Ward	12	63	211	3.3	1	29	17.6

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Wheaton	12	73	986	13.5	1	69	82.2
J. Rodgers	9	45	518	11.4	3	31	57.1
B. Cooks	12	31	391	12.6	3	59	32.6

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: A. Watkins 85, M. Doctor 78, L. Mitchell 76
Tackles for loss: S. Crichton 14.5, D. Wynn 5.5, A. Seumalo 4.5
Sacks: S. Crichton 6, R. Fernando 3.5, T. Henry 3
Interceptions: J. Poyer 4, M. Doctor 2, L. Mitchell 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	NICHOLLS STATE	1-10
Sept. 8	WISCONSIN	11-3
Sept. 22	at UCLA	6-8
Sept. 29	at Arizona	4-8
Oct. 6	WASHINGTON STATE	4-8
Oct. 13	at BYU	10-3
Oct. 20	UTAH	8-5
Oct. 27	at Washington	7-6
Nov. 3	ARIZONA STATE	6-7
Nov. 10	at Stanford	11-2
Nov. 17	CALIFORNIA	7-6
Nov. 24	OREGON	12-2

PLAYER PROFILE

Jordan Poyer
Photo by Dave Sizer

Project No More, Poyer Out to Prove Himself

When Oregon State coach Mike Riley and his staff visit recruits, they can use Jordan Poyer as the poster child for how they develop athletes.

Poyer, a senior cornerback, came from Astoria, a small fishing town in northwest Oregon, and turned him into one of the top NFL prospects at his position. ESPN's Mel Kiper rated him the No. 2 senior corner this spring for the 2013 Draft.

He's a shutdown corner who plays man-to-man coverage every play on defense while also being a dynamic kickoff and punt returner. He's also an aggressive gunner on kickoffs and punts.

"Jordan has just done everything he could do for a football team," Riley said. "He's as competitive a person I've been around, and does anything to get better."

Poyer was under the radar since he played at a small high school. He excelled as Oregon's Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year, and played for USA Football's 2009 Junior National Team, but there were still doubts because of the level of competition.

No major colleges offered a scholarship, only regional FCS teams. So he attended an Oregon State camp to get noticed.

The Beavers liked him, but considered him a project.

"I came into Division I football not knowing what to expect," Poyer said. "People were telling me I couldn't make it at Division I football, and it happened. I heard that I didn't play at the level other guys played. But I just wanted to go somewhere and play to show I could."

Oregon State over-recruited that year and planned to delay Poyer's enrollment a term. Then some recruits failed to qualify academically, so Poyer joined the team.

Riley realized Poyer possessed the tools to contribute as a true freshman. Poyer played on all the special teams and eventually returned kicks.

He showed the athletic ability to cover receivers by the end of his freshman season, so he moved from safety to corner. Poyer earned second-team all-conference honors as a first-year starter last season. He broke up 12 passes, intercepted four and returned one for a touchdown.

"I still have people telling me I won't make it at the NFL level," Poyer said. "So I just want to make myself the best I can. I'll work hard and live up to my dreams."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR Markus Wheaton

The senior goes into his second season as the go-to receiver. ... He caught 73 passes for 986 yards and one touchdown last year. ... Opponents double-teamed him much of the time which led to his limited numbers, so he worked on breaking loose in the spring. ... Tied for ninth in Oregon State history with 135 receptions and is just outside the top 10 in receiving yards with 1,750. ... The track sprinter is also a kickoff returner.

EMERGING STAR

WR Brandin Cooks

Played as a true freshman and started when James Rodgers was still out early in the season as he recovered from knee surgery. ... Tied for third on the team in receptions with 31 for 391 yards and three touchdowns. ... He's expected to return kickoffs at times and run the ball on the fly sweep like Rodgers did. ... Cooks should benefit from lighter coverage since Markus Wheaton is the known go-to receiver. ... Cooks excelled in the offseason running track.

TOP NEWCOMER

OL Isaac Seumalo

He's a Rivals.com four-star athlete, rated the No. 3 offensive guard in the country and the son of defensive line coach Joe Seumalo. ... At an athletic 6-3, 280, he already physically fits in with the starters on the team. ... The Beavers are looking at him to start, possibly at center even though he didn't play center at high school. ... He was at every spring practice listening and watching as the linemen worked.

misses inside 49 yards last season.

Romaine has a strong enough leg that he had a school-record 10 touchbacks, but backup punter Keith Kostol is working on his kicking just in case.

Tim McMullen, a Division II transfer from Humboldt State, takes over for four-year starting punter Johnny Hekker. McMullen, from Australia, punted for only one season, averaging 41 yards and pinning opponents inside the 20-yard line 12 times.

Jordan Poyer anchors the return game, but Riley doesn't want to tire him out with too many responsibilities. Markus Wheaton, Brandin Cooks and Malcolm Marable are being prepped for kickoff returns to give Poyer occasional breaks.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The season begins with what's supposed to be an easy warm-up against Nicholls State, an FCS team, but the Beavers lost to Sacramento State last year to start the season and never recovered.

Then it gets tough with Wisconsin in town before Pac-12 games begin. The third nonconference game is BYU in the middle of the season on Oct. 13.

The bye comes early in Week 3 after Wisconsin, which means there are 10 straight weeks of games. That could cause a wear-down at the end.

One positive is the last two games are at home — against California and rival Oregon. There are seven home games with back-to-back road games just once, as the Beavers open conference play at UCLA and Arizona.

— Cliff Kirkpatrick

USC TROJANS

For more coverage of the Trojans, visit usc.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kennedy Polamalu **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Monte Kiffin **STADIUM:** L.A. Coliseum: 93,607

AT A GLANCE

2011:
10-2, 7-2 Pac-12 (1st, South)

COACH:
Lane Kiffin — At USC: 18-7, 2 years; overall: 25-13, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
19; 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Matt Barkley, RB Curtis McNeal, WR Robert Woods, WR Marqise Lee, C Khaled Holmes, DE Wes Horton, LB Dion Bailey, CB Nickell Robey, FS T.J. McDonald

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The offense should score on any opponent. Barkley is a Heisman frontrunner, while Woods and Lee form the nation's top receiving duo. McDonald and Robey anchor an experienced defense expected to be as effective as the glamorous offense. Kicker Andre Heidari is a hidden weapon.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Depth is a real issue. The Trojans have only two tailbacks with college experience and just three overall. USC has only four true defensive tackles and a converted offensive lineman making up the unit. If the Trojans suffer injuries at these positions — or, of course, at quarterback — their run at the BCS title could be a short one.

KEY LOSSES:
TB Marc Tyler, FB-TE Rhett Ellison, OT Matt Kalil, DE Nick Perry, DT Christian Tupou, DT DaJohn Harris, LB Chris Galippo

OVERVIEW:
Everyone it seems, including *Lindy's*, thinks the Trojans should be ranked in the national top two. They certainly have the star power to merit the ranking. But they must navigate the regular season with little depth at key spots. And they cannot get tripped up by a Pac-12 opponent they are expected to beat — a problem in past years when USC was highly ranked.

Time is Now: Barkley-led Trojans Take BCS Shot

This is the year when USC is supposed to start feeling the effects of NCAA scholarship reductions. Hardly anyone believes it, judging by the preseason rankings, which includes a national No. 2 prediction from *Lindy's*.

Aware of that lofty ranking, coach Lane Kiffin painted the Trojans' practice field with the slogan, "Preparation not hype."

USC might have 10 fewer scholarships than allowed (75), but who feels sorry for the Trojans with Matt Barkley at quarterback and the nation's best receiving duo in Robert Woods and Marqise Lee?

The Trojans are bowl-eligible and expect to play in the BCS Championship Game. USC absorbed its hefty NCAA penalty and emerged as formidable as it was during the Pete Carroll era.

Perhaps the real question is how Kiffin will deal with increased expectations. Last year's team surprised observers by going 10-2. But Kiffin will now feel what Carroll dealt with for years. At least Kiffin no longer has the pressure of job security, at least for one season.

Carroll ignored stress with a devil-may-care attitude, complemented by an incredible drive. Kiffin lacks Carroll's charisma but is equally competitive. His challenge will be to get the Trojans to believe him when he delivers lectures on ignoring polls.

Kiffin's edge could be Barkley, a team leader who is hungry to make up for the past two bowl-less seasons. The Heisman Trophy favorite threw for 3,528 yards and a Pac-12 record 39 touchdowns last year.

Barkley ignored the NFL to come back for one special season, and the Trojans' 17 returning starters on offense and defense make anything look possible, even with scary depth problems at the key positions of tailback and defensive tackle.

OFFENSE

Matt Barkley enjoyed a light spring, with Kiffin's top priority being avoiding an injury before the season. That left plenty of snaps for Barkley's backups, but Max Wittek and Cody Kessler were too close to name a No. 2 before training camp.

Kessler was clearly ahead of Wittek last fall when he was named the backup. But Wittek improved, and the two appeared even during spring drills. Kiffin will not name a backup until the season begins.

There is optimism the offense might be more explosive, with wide receiver Robert Woods expected to be 100 percent after being hampered by an ankle injury. Woods underwent surgery after last season and sat out spring drills to ensure he will be healthy.

Expectations are also higher for wide receiver Marqise Lee in his second year. He is one of college football's best athletes and should surpass last year's freshman numbers of 73 catches, 1,143 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Who will be the No. 3 receiver? George Farmer is the favorite, but he missed most of spring with a hamstring injury, and perennial reserve De'Von Flournoy made enough big plays to catch Kiffin's attention. The third receiver is important because he could be on the field quite a bit if Kiffin is not satisfied with the fullback.

Tailback Curtis McNeal must remain healthy because the only other tailbacks are little-used D.J. Morgan and never-used Javorious Allen. They will be joined in the fall by incoming freshman Nelson Agholor, who was supposed to be a wide receiver until the depth dilemmas.

The biggest issue entering spring was finding a replacement for left tackle Matt Kalil, the No. 4 pick in the NFL Draft. But sophomore Aundrey Walker quickly took over and will only be challenged by a group of incoming freshmen, led by tackle Zach Banner.

"You don't normally see such athleticism from someone his size," Kiffin said of the 320-pound Walker.

Matt Barkley
Photo by Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

TROJANS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
38	John Akiba	TB	5-8	190	Jr.	Mission Viejo
35	Kris Albarado	P	5-10	200	Fr.	Lake Charles, LA
37	Javorious Allen	TB	6-0	215	Fr.	Tallahasse, FL
45	Joshua Alswang	PK	5-10	160	Fr.	Greenwood Village, CO
51	Will Andrew	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Huntington Beach
54	Michael Arakelian	DE	6-1	210	Jr.	Anaheim
40	John Auran	S	5-11	190	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
67	Yonatan Aviv	DT	6-0	270	So.	Los Angeles
18	Dion Bailey	LB	6-0	200	So.	Lakewood
7	Matt Barkley	QB	6-2	230	Sr.	Newport Beach
30	Brian Baucham	CB	5-11	170	Sr.	Torrance
85	Victor Blackwell	WR	6-1	190	Fr.	Cerritos
92	Morgan Breslin	DE	6-2	255	Jr.	Walnut Creek
16	Anthony Brown	CB	5-9	185	So.	Rialto
39	Charles Burks	FB	6-0	235	Fr.	Costa Mesa
34	Tony Burnett	S	6-1	205	Sr.	Watts
39	Troy Cardona	S	5-11	185	Fr.	Aloha, OR
26	Spencer Darlin	WR	5-10	175	So.	Encinitas
55	Lamar Dawson	LB	6-2	235	So.	Junction City, KY
63	Giovanni Di Poalo	G	6-4	290	So.	Ventura
84	Kevin Downey, Jr.	TE	6-3	210	Jr.	West Hills
8	George Farmer	WR	6-1	210	So.	Los Angeles
10	De'Von Flournoy	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Studio City
14	Devin Forte	WR	6-0	190	Sr.	Los Angeles
28	Luke Freeman	LB	5-10	200	Jr.	Westlake Village
28	Kevin Fu	WR	6-3	170	So.	San Jose
74	Jeremy Galten	OT/OG	6-5	290	Sr.	San Mateo
73	David Garness	OT	6-5	295	Jr.	Anchorage, AK
27	Kamaron Germany	TB	6-0	175	Fr.	Covina
77	Kevin Graf	OT	6-6	295	Jr.	Agoura Hills
81	Kevin Greene	DE	6-4	260	Jr.	Oakland
86	Xavier Grimble	TE	6-5	260	So.	Las Vegas, NV
76	Nathan Guertler	OT	6-5	275	So.	Norco
4	Torin Harris	CB	6-0	180	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
48	Andre Heidari	PK	5-10	210	So.	Bakersfield
15	Ryan Henderson	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	Moreno Valley
97	Christian Heyward	DT	6-2	285	Fr.	San Diego
69	Cyrus Hobbi	OG	6-3	275	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ
78	Khaled Holmes	C	6-4	305	Sr.	Santa Ana
96	Wes Horton	DE	6-5	260	Sr.	Chatsworth
81	Brett Hughes	WR	6-2	195	Fr.	Mountain View
23	Alec Jaffe	TB	5-11	195	Fr.	Laguna Beach
65	Erick Jepsen	C	6-2	285	Fr.	Moreno Valley
38	Taylor Jolin	S	6-2	195	So.	San Diego
60	John Katnik	OG/C	6-2	265	Fr.	Rolling Hills Estates
52	Dallas Kelley	LB	5-11	230	Sr.	Norco
42	Devon Kennard	DE	6-3	260	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
6	Cody Kessler	QB	6-1	210	Fr.	Bakersfield
91	Zack Kusnir	DT	6-5	250	So.	La Jolla
44	Chandler Larsen	FB/TE	6-0	225	Sr.	Oak Park
9	Marqise Lee	WR	6-0	190	So.	Inglewood
13	Tre Madden	LB	6-0	220	So.	Aliso Viejo
18	John Manoogian	QB	6-0	220	Sr.	Los Angeles
50	Abe Markowitz	C	6-1	310	Sr.	Hawaii Kai, HI
66	Marcus Martin	OG	6-3	325	So.	Los Angeles
59	John Martinez	OG	6-2	300	Jr.	Murray, UT
41	Eric Matranga	WR	5-10	180	So.	Carmichael
19	Drew McAllister	S	6-1	205	Sr.	Danville
61	Peter McBride	SNP	6-10	215	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ
7	T.J. McDonald	S	6-3	205	Sr.	Fresno
46	Craig McMahon	PK	6-1	190	So.	Bakersfield
22	Curtis McNeal	TB	5-7	190	Sr.	Los Angeles
30	D.J. Morgan	TB	5-10	190	So.	Van Nuys
35	Kyle Negrete	P	6-0	225	Sr.	Fresno
37	Luis Nevarez	S	6-0	190	Jr.	Visalia
16	Anthony Neyer	QB	6-2	205	So.	Palm Desert
87	Junior Pomee	TE	6-3	260	Fr.	Perris
10	Hayes Pullard	LB	6-1	230	So.	Inglewood
21	Nickell Robey	CB	5-8	165	Jr.	Frostproof, FL
47	Taylor Ross	TB	5-10	190	Fr.	Newport Beach
17	Emon Saee	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Calabasas
56	Anthony Sarao	LB	6-0	210	Fr.	Egg Harbor Township, NJ
45	Doug Scott	LB	6-2	200	Sr.	San Diego
15	Jesse Scroggins	QB	6-2	210	So.	Lakewood
26	Josh Shaw	S	6-2	200	So.	Palmdale
46	Hunter Simmons	FB	6-1	240	Jr.	Pasadena
53	Marquis Simmons	LB	6-1	220	Jr.	Compton
38	Cody Skene	WR	5-9	165	Jr.	Oak Park
29	Jawanza Starling	S	6-1	200	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
47	Scott Starr	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Norco
49	Christian Sutton	CB	5-10	185	Fr.	Suwanee, GA
58	J.R. Tavai	DT	6-2	270	So.	Redondo Beach
82	Randall Telfer	TE	6-4	245	So.	Rancho Cucamonga
98	Cody Temple	DT	6-3	280	Fr.	Bakersfield
89	Christian Thomas	TE	6-3	250	So.	Palmdale
27	William Tober	CB	5-9	170	Jr.	San Clemente
93	Greg Townsend, Jr.	DE	6-3	275	Fr.	Los Angeles
49	Chidozie Uche	WR	5-10	180	So.	London, England
90	George Uko	DT	6-3	285	So.	Chino
31	Soma Vainuku	FB	6-0	250	Fr.	Eureka
70	Aundrey Walker	OT	6-6	320	So.	Cleveland, OH
72	Chad Wheeler	OT	6-7	255	Fr.	Santa Monica
14	Isiah Wiley	CB	6-0	180	Sr.	West Monroe, LA
95	DeVante Wilson	DE	6-4	235	Fr.	Corona
13	Max Wittek	QB	6-4	225	Fr.	Newport Beach
99	Antwaun Woods	DT	6-1	315	Fr.	Los Angeles
2	Robert Woods	WR	6-1	190	Jr.	Carson
24	Demetrius Wright	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Corona
59	Kyle Yatabe	LB	6-0	220	Jr.	El Segundo

NOTEBOOK

Quarterback **Matt Barkley** organized a group of more than 15 players that went to Haiti in May to help build houses and offer assistance to the needy. Barkley, center **Khaled Holmes** and defensive end **Devon Kennard** participated in graduation ceremonies and flew out that night to Haiti with their teammates.

• Perhaps the biggest setback of spring practice was the season-ending injury suffered by converted tailback **Tre Madden**. The sophomore played linebacker his freshman year, but he switched to tailback because of depth problems and was immediately a revelation.

Madden gave the Trojans a physical back they lacked and offered surprising speed for his size. He will return in 2013.

• USC's recruiting got off to a fast start as three of the nation's top 20 players committed to the Trojans by mid-May: Quarterback **Max Browne** (ranked No. 1 at the position by Rivals.com); defensive end **Kenny Bigelow** (also ranked No. 1 at his position) and tailback **Ty Isaac** (ranked No. 2 at the position).

• The Los Angeles Coliseum Commission agreed to give USC day-to-day control of the historic stadium until 2054. USC plans to spend $70 million to upgrade the facility, including $27 million to replace every seat.

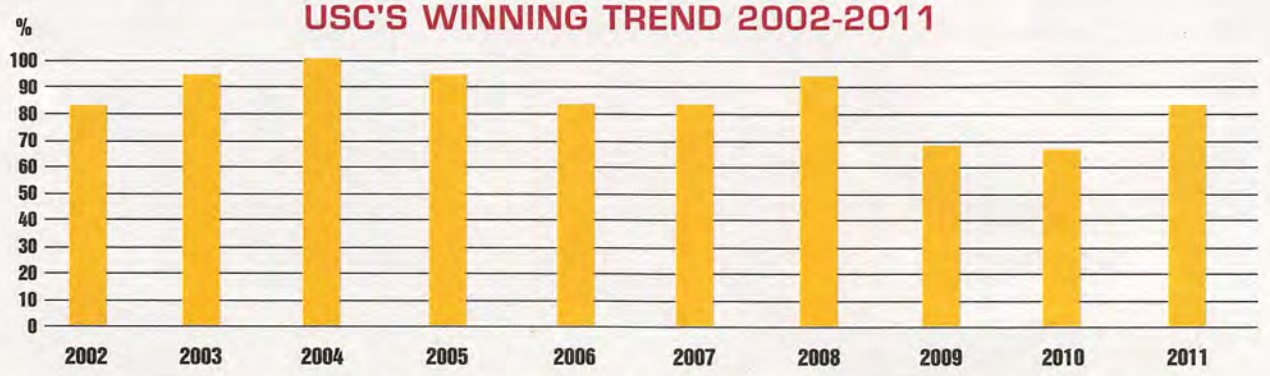
• USC added three new coaches as **Lane Kiffin** hired secondary coach **Marvin Sanders**, linebackers coach **Scottie Hazelton** and wide receivers coach **Tee Martin**.

Defensive coordinator **Monte Kiffin** is believed to be the highest-paid assistant coach in the nation after federal tax records revealed he made $1.5 million in 2010, the most recent year returns are available. Lane Kiffin made $2.5 million in 2011.

• USC will be heavily favored to win its opener against Hawaii. But the game will interest Trojans fans because it marks the debut of Warriors coach Norm Chow, a beloved figure as USC's offensive coordinator when the school won two national titles under Pete Carroll.

• Tailback **D.J. Morgan** did not run a competitive race for the track team all season but finished fifth at the Pac-12 championships in his first college event. Wide receiver **Marqise Lee** finished fifth in the long jump and also ran on the 400-meter relay team.

USC'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



Banner is not USC's only talented freshman offensive lineman. Max Tuerk and Jordan Simmons also were considered two of the nation's top line prospects. The line was earmarked as the Trojans' weakness last year but returns four starters and should ably protect Barkley.

DEFENSE

USC's defense, even though it's overshadowed by the offense, has no reason to feel like a second-class unit, especially with the entire back seven returning, led by All-American safety T.J. McDonald.

USC returns its top four tacklers and team leaders in interceptions, pass deflections and fumble recoveries.

Dynamic cornerback Nickell Robey, possibly the Trojans' best defensive player despite being only 5-8, has started every game in his first two years while also returning punts and kickoffs.

"Every practice he seems to make plays," Kiffin said. "It seems like he can do everything."

USC's real strength may be at linebacker, where three sophomores start.

Dion Bailey proved to be the most consistent playmaker last season, when the converted safety added speed to the position. When Lamar Dawson took over at middle linebacker late in the season, Kiffin credited him with changing the defense's physicality. The other starter, Hayes Pullard, tied Bailey with a team-high 81 tackles.

Bailey and Pullard became the first freshmen to lead the Trojans in tackles since such records began to be kept in 1954. If Bailey gets hurt, his backup is triple-jump standout Tony Burnett, who previously played safety and cornerback but made a successful transition to linebacker during spring drills.

The defensive line has questions after Nick Perry's decision to turn pro early. Devon Kennard starts at defensive end after a subpar junior season, and the other defensive end, Wes Horton, also needs to make more plays.

Junior college transfer Morgan Breslin should be part of the defensive end rotation.

The defensive tackles are untested, despite high hopes for sophomore George Uko. J.R. Tavai played in spots last season and beat out Antwaun Woods at nose tackle, but both will see time.

Opposite McDonald at safety is Jawanza Starling, but Kiffin continues to talk about Demetrius Wright starting, too. McDonald's backup is Drew McAllister, a quiet senior with a knack for big plays. Gerald Bowman is also in the mix, after being rated one of the nation's top junior college players last season, and so is Florida transfer Josh Shaw.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Andre Heidari enjoyed about as good a freshman season as possible, making 15 of 17 field-goal attempts and all 50 extra points. His 88.2 field-goal percentage ranked

Robert Woods
Photo by John Pyle/Cal Sport Media

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 162.6 ypg rushing (4th in Pac-12/51st NCAA), 294.2 passing (4th/15th), 456.8 total offense (4th/21st NCAA), 35.8 ppg (3rd/16th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Matt Barkley*	Sr.	Anything less than a Heisman may be a disappointment.	Cody Kessler, Fr.
TB	Curtis McNeal*	Sr.	Pint-size back chasing back-to-back 1,000 yard seasons.	D.J. Morgan, So.
FB	Soma Vainuku	Fr.	If no one develops, USC could go to three wideouts.	Hunter Simmons, Jr.
WR	Robert Woods*	Jr.	Nothing can stop him, except injuries.	De'Von Flournoy, Jr.
WR	Marqise Lee*	So.	What will he do for encore after strong debut season?	George Farmer, So.
TE	Xavier Grimble*	So.	Deepest spot on team goes five deep.	Randall Telfer, So.
LT	Aundrey Walker	So.	Eased fears in spring about filling shoes of Matt Kalil.	Max Tuerk, Fr.
LG	Marcus Martin*	So.	Took over in third game and kept job rest of season.	Cyrus Hobbi, Fr.
C	Khaled Holmes*	Sr.	Leader of line and eight-year teammate of Barkley.	Abe Markowitz, Sr.
RG	John Martinez*	Jr.	Often overlooked, but never misses a game.	Jordan Simmons, Fr.
RT	Kevin Graf*	Jr.	He has highly talented freshman waiting in the wings.	Zach Banner, Fr.
K	Andre Heidari*	So.	Just about perfect freshman season might be hard to top.	Craig McMahon, So.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 111.4 ypg rushing (2nd in Pac-12/18th NCAA), 263.3 passing (9th/102nd), 374.8 total defense (4th/54th NCAA), 23.6 ppg (3rd/45th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Devon Kennard	Sr.	Coming off disappointing season with only two sacks.	Greg Townsend, Fr.
NT	J.R. Tavai	So.	Showed flashes of big-play ability in limited role last year.	Antwaun Woods, Fr.
DT	George Uko	So.	Coaches expect him to become dominating defender.	Christian Heyward, Fr.
DE	Wes Horton*	Sr.	Another lineman expected to make more significant plays.	Morgan Breslin, Jr.
LB	Dion Bailey*	So.	Primed for big season after being Freshman All-American.	Tony Burnett, Sr.
LB	Lamar Dawson*	So.	Interesting to see what he will do playing a full season.	Scott Starr, Fr.
LB	Hayes Pullard*	So.	Team co-leader in tackles as a freshman.	Anthony Sarao, Fr.
CB	Nickell Robey*	Jr.	USC's most athletic player; key special teams performer.	Anthony Brown, So.
CB	Isiah Wiley*	Sr.	Slowly rose up the depth chart, but here he is.	Brian Baucham, Sr.
SS	Jawanza Starling*	Sr.	Always seems to be in job fight, but keeps starting spot.	Demetrius Wright, Jr.
FS	T.J. McDonald*	Sr.	The Barkley of defense surprised many by returning.	Drew McAllister, Sr.
P	Kyle Negrete*	Sr.	Had only 10 punts returned last season.	Kris Albarado Fr.

*Returning Starter

TROJANS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Nelson Agholor	WR	6-2	180	★★★★★	Tampa, FL	Berkeley Prep

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Florida…Rated as the nation's No. 3 wide receiver…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game…Chose USC over Florida, Florida State, Notre Dame, Oklahoma and others.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Zach Banner	OL	6-9	310	★★★★★	Lakewood, WA	Lakes

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 2 offensive tackle…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl…Chose USC over Michigan, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Washington and others.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Gerald Bowman	DB	6-1	210	★★★★	Woodland Hills, CA	Pierce C.C.

Rated as the nation's No. 1 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Had 52 tackles, four tackles for loss, one sack and one interception in 2011…Had 58 tackles, six tackles for loss, one interception and two pass breakups in 2010.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Morgan Breslin	DE	6-2	255	★★★★	Pleasant Hill, CA	Diablo Valley C.C.

Rated as the nation's No. 14 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Had 50 tackles and 12 sacks in 2010…Had 13.5 sacks in 2011…Enrolled at USC in January.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jalen Cope-Fitzpatrick	TE	6-5	250	★★★★	Rocklin, CA	Whitney

Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 23 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 4 tight end…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game…Chose USC over Colorado, Oregon, UCLA and others.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jahleel Pinner	RB	6-1	225	★★★	Mission Viejo, CA	Mission Viejo

Rated as the No. 50 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 1 fullback…Selected to compete in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Darreus Rogers	WR	6-2	194	★★★★	Carson, CA	Carson

Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 28 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 29 wide receiver…Chose USC over Arizona State, SMU, UCLA, Washington and Miami.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jabari Ruffin	LB	6-4	230	★★★★	Downey, CA	Downey

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 6 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 1 outside linebacker…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl…Had 99 tackles and two sacks as a senior.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Kevon Seymour	DB	6-0	180	★★★★	Pasadena, CA	Muir

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 14 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 6 cornerback…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl…Had 51 tackles and five interceptions as a senior.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Devian Shelton	DB	6-1	185	★★★★	Inglewood, CA	Inglewood

Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 29 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 16 cornerback…Participated in the Cal State All-Star Game.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jordan Simmons	OL	6-5	333	★★★★★	Encino, CA	Crespi

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 5 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 1 offensive guard…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Scott Starr	LB	6-3	220	★★★★	Norco, CA	Norco

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 19 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 10 outside linebacker…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl…Enrolled at USC in January.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Max Tuerk	OL	6-6	294	★★★★	Santa Margarita, CA	Santa Margarita

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 8 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 7 offensive tackle…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Chad Wheeler	DE/OT	6-7	255	★★★	Santa Monica, CA	Santa Monica

Had 38 tackles and five sacks as a junior…Chose USC over Arizona, Arizona State, Cal, Harvard, Iowa State and Washington State…Enrolled at USC in January.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Leonard Williams	DE	6-5	254	★★★★	Daytona Beach, FL	Mainland

Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Florida…Rated as the nation's No. 5 strongside defensive end…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game…Had 103 tackles, 19.5 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks as a senior.

A LOOK AT THE TROJANS

RESULTS

10-2, 7-2

W	MINNESOTA	19-17
W	UTAH	23-14
W	SYRACUSE	38-17
L	at Arizona State	22-43
W	ARIZONA	48-41
W	at California	30-9
W	at Notre Dame	31-17
L	STANFORD (3OT)	48-56
W	at Colorado	42-17
W	WASHINGTON	40-17
W	at Oregon	38-35
W	UCLA	50-0

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
M. Barkley	12	308	446	7	69.1	3528	39
M. Tyler	10	1	1	0	100.0	2	0

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. McNeal	12	145	1005	6.9	6	79	83.8
M. Tyler	10	122	568	4.7	4	26	56.8
D.J. Morgan	10	42	163	3.9	0	31	16.3

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Woods	12	111	1292	11.6	15	82	107.7
M. Lee	12	73	1143	15.7	11	59	95.2
R. Telfer	12	26	273	10.5	5	44	22.8

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: H. Pullard 81, D. Bailey 81, T.J. McDonald 67
Tackles for loss: N. Perry 13, D. Harris 7, H. Pullard 6.5
Sacks: N. Perry 9.5, J. Pullard 4, W. Horton 4
Interceptions: T.J. McDonald 3, D. Bailey 2, N. Robey 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	HAWAII	6-7
Sept. 8	vs. Syracuse (East Rutherford, NJ)	5-7
Sept. 15	at Stanford	11-2
Sept. 22	CALIFORNIA	7-6
Oct. 4	at Utah	8-5
Oct. 13	at Washington	7-6
Oct. 20	COLORADO	3-10
Oct. 27	at Arizona	4-8
Nov. 3	OREGON	12-2
Nov. 10	ARIZONA STATE	6-7
Nov. 17	at UCLA	6-8
Nov. 24	NOTRE DAME	8-5

PLAYER PROFILE

Marqise Lee
Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

73 Catches Later, USC Glad Wideout Signed

It's almost hard to believe today that USC hesitated to offer wide receiver Marqise Lee a scholarship.

The sophomore is one of the nation's top receivers, but not long ago USC coaches were unsure if they wanted him. They did not have much contact with him for several months while colleges such as Oregon and Miami pursued him.

"I always wanted to go to USC," Lee said. "It was my No. 1 choice and I'm glad I got to come here."

So are USC's coaches, despite their initial reluctance.

"Our evaluation paid off," coach Lane Kiffin said in a comment that almost sounds tongue-in-cheek after Lee caught 73 passes for 1,143 yards with 11 touchdowns last season.

By the end of last season, some thought Lee was USC's best weapon. He made play after play during the Trojans' final four games — victories over Colorado, Washington, Oregon and UCLA.

Lee's wait for a scholarship offer was a breeze compared to the obstacles he overcame in life. When he was 6 or 7, he said, he was taken from his mother and placed in different foster homes, hotels or just with friends.

A half-brother is dead and another is in jail. But Lee got lucky when a friend's family took him in while he attended Serra High School in Gardena, Calif., during his sophomore year.

Lee lived in Inglewood with Sheila Nero and Steve Hester, and they channeled his energy into sports, where he became a college-level athlete in football, basketball and track.

That was apparent this spring when Lee joined the track team and finished fifth in the long jump at the Pac-12 championships, even though he also participated in spring football drills. He also ran a leg on the 400-meter relay team, another example of his boundless energy.

"He's a wonderful kid," USC track coach Ron Allice said. "His attitude is stellar and he always wants to help the team. He's literally a dream to coach."

Lee's attitude is so good that Kiffin even let him go to a track meet in Texas and miss a weekend of spring football practice.

"He wanted to go and I think he deserved the chance because he works so hard," Kiffin said.

Lee appreciates the opportunities after a turbulent upbringing.

"I've been lucky because other people go through tough things, too, but I had people who helped me," Lee said.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Matt Barkley

The face of the program and the logical preseason favorite to win the Heisman Trophy. ... Here are his career numbers as a three-year starter: 755 completions in 1,175 attempts for 9,054 yards and 80 touchdowns, with 33 interceptions. ... Made progress each season with mobility and throwing the deep ball. ... Threw for school-record 468 yards vs. Arizona last season. Later in the season, Barkley set another USC game record with six TD passes vs. Colorado.

EMERGING STAR

LB Lamar Dawson

USC's defense became more physical when it inserted Dawson into the starting lineup for the final four games, thanks to his size (6-2, 235). ... He had six tackles against UCLA in his best game of the season. ... He played in only eight games last year because of an ankle injury. ... Dawson is just the second USC letterman from Kentucky, following another linebacker, Kurt Barber.

TOP NEWCOMER

TB Nelson Agholor

He was recruited as a wide receiver but will play tailback, after Amir Carlisle transferred and Tre Madden tore knee ligaments this spring. ... Agholor is expected to be a pass-catching tailback for the Trojans, who lack someone in that role and need a 6-2 back. ... He rushed for 1,983 yards as a senior at Berkeley Prep in Tampa, Fla. ... Despite being recruited as a wide receiver, he caught only 10 passes his senior season.

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third in the nation for kickers with at least 10 made field goals.

Punter Kyle Negrete, adept at pinning teams inside the 20, averaged 40.1 yards per kick in 2011. Kiffin made noise in spring practice that freshman Kris Albarado could become a long-range punter, with Negrete as a short-range specialist.

Robert Woods will return punts and kickoffs, while Marqise Lee will return kickoffs. Nickell Robey also will return punts with Woods.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

One of the reasons to predict big things for USC: a favorable schedule.

USC opens with a team to which it has never lost (Hawaii) and plays Syracuse on a neutral field in New Jersey. The Trojans then travel to Stanford, a game that should be their toughest, but the Cardinal will be early into the post-Andrew Luck era. Better to play Stanford early than late in the season.

The middle of the schedule provides two trap games with trips to Utah and Washington, where USC lost in its last visit to Seattle in 2009. But even that game against UW will be off campus at Qwest Field while Husky Stadium is renovated.

A trip to Tucson and new Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez also looms as a potential problem, but this is not exactly playing in the SEC. USC's final four games feature a marquee matchup with Oregon at the Coliseum, the first crosstown rivalry against new UCLA coach Jim Mora and unpredictable Notre Dame coming to Los Angeles to close the season.

— Scott Wolf

STANFORD CARDINAL

For more coverage of the Cardinal, visit stanford.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pep Hamilton | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Derek Mason | **STADIUM:** Stanford: 50,000

AT A GLANCE

2011:
11-2, 8-1 Pac-12 (T-1st, North)

COACH:
David Shaw — At Stanford and overall: 11-2, 1 year

RETURNING STARTERS:
13; 5 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
TB Stepfan Taylor, TE Zach Ertz, WR Ty Montgomery, OL David Yankey, OLB Chase Thomas, DE Ben Gardner, ILB Shayne Skov

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
The defensive front seven is tough, relentless and stocked with playmakers on both levels; it will be difficult for any offense to handle. Taylor is one of the Pac-12's best tailbacks. Three starters and several experienced backups return on the line, and the Cardinal has a stable of physical fullbacks and tight ends.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
The quarterback position is unsettled (whether it's Brett Nottingham or Josh Nunes); the receivers are largely unproven and there are two massive holes to fill up front. In addition, Stanford must replace three starters in a secondary that wasn't an elite unit to begin with.

KEY LOSSES:
QB Andrew Luck, WR Chris Owusu, TE Coby Fleener, OG David DeCastro, OT Jonathan Martin, SS Delano Howell

OVERVIEW:
Stanford enters a new era in the wake of quarterback Andrew Luck's departure. Whether the drop-off is moderate or significant depends on how quickly his replacement is able to handle the position efficiently. There's more than enough talent for Stanford to be one of the top teams in the Pac-12, but the ceiling isn't nearly as high as in the past couple of years.

Cardinal Hopes Recent Success Wasn't All Luck

Two years ago, Stanford lost running back Toby Gerhart and didn't flinch. Last year, the Cardinal lost coach Jim Harbaugh — and several of his top lieutenants — and kept right on winning.

But those challenges were meager compared to what the Cardinal faces in 2012 following the departure of quarterback Andrew Luck. The greatest Stanford player since John Elway made everyone around him better, from the offensive linemen to the defensive backs, from the special teams to the coaching staff.

With Luck at the controls, Stanford was superb on third down and in the red zone. It rarely played from behind, and it was just as efficient on the road as at home. Without Luck, the pressure to perform increases, especially in clutch situations, and the Cardinal's margin for error plunges.

The foundation for a solid running game exists with tailback Stepfan Taylor and three returning starters on the offensive line, but only if the starting quarterback (Brett Nottingham or Josh Nunes) is effective through the air.

The defense could be first rate with end Ben Gardner and linebackers Chase Thomas and Shayne Skov, but only if dealt reasonable hands in regards to field position, time of possession and the scoreboard.

Stanford also lost two dominant offensive linemen, a big-play tight end and one of the best safety tandems in school history.

Oh, and the Cardinal will face a more difficult schedule in 2012 than it has in either of the past two seasons.

Toss everything into the mixer and the end result figures to be a solid season — one in which the Cardinal could still be one of the best teams in the Pac-12 and settle into the fringes of the national Top 25 — but it probably won't be like the success Stanford experienced the past two seasons.

OFFENSE

What started as a five-player competition to replace Andrew Luck was quickly whittled to two: Junior Brett Nottingham and senior Josh Nunes will compete in training camp for the starting quarterback spot.

Nottingham has the stronger arm, Nunes the edge in experience. Look for a starter to be named two or three weeks before the season opener, with Nottingham in the role of unofficial favorite.

Regardless of the outcome of the featured competition, Stanford will rely on its running game to take pressure off the unproven aerial attack. Durable tailback Stepfan Taylor rushed for 1,330 yards last year, but he'll be facing defenses stacked to stop the run.

In order for Stanford to take advantage of passing opportunities and make optimum use of its play-action game, the receivers must ramp up their production. Ty Montgomery showed flashes of big-play potential last season (24 catches) but must become more consistent, and there is no established second option.

Drew Terrell, Jamal-Rashad Patterson and Jemari Roberts — all heralded recruits several years ago — have thus far failed to develop into consistent playmakers. Keanu Nelson was impressive during the spring game but is probably not the answer by himself.

Despite the departure of tight end Coby Fleener, Stanford is well-stocked at the position. Zach Ertz, Levine Toilolo and Ryan Hewitt, who also plays fullback, combined for 86 catches last year and create matchup problems with their size and mobility. But Stanford's preference would be to decrease its dependency on tight ends and create better balance with the receivers — if, of course, the unit can meet the challenge.

The Cardinal is set at three offensive line positions with right tackle Cameron Fleming projected to be the team's next elite lineman, center Sam Schwartzstein and left guard David Yankey.

Stepfan Taylor
Photo by Icon Sports Media

CARDINAL SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
15	Usua Amanam	CB	5-10	178	Sr.	Fremont
91	Henry Anderson	DE	6-6	273	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
48	Kevin Anderson	DE	6-4	245	So.	Palo Alto
74	Brendon Austin	OT	6-6	302	So.	Parker, CO
28	Harold Bernard	CB	6-2	186	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
75	Dillon Bonnell	OG	6-4	276	Jr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
6	Terrence Brown	CB	6-1	178	Sr.	Torrance
31	Barry Browning	CB	6-1	179	Jr.	Everman, TX
19	Adam Brzeczek	QB	6-0	188	So.	Queen Creek, AZ
89	Devon Cajuste	WR	6-4	212	So.	Seaford, NY
95	Lance Callihan	DT	6-3	295	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
5	Devon Carrington	FS	6-1	200	Jr.	Chandler, AZ
5	Evan Crower	QB	6-5	205	So.	San Diego
23	Jackson Cummings	RB	5-9	186	Jr.	Rocklin
76	Kevin Danser	OG	6-6	288	Sr.	Saratoga
42	Alex Debniak	ILB	6-2	233	Sr.	Hudsonville, MI
83	Davis Dudchock	TE	6-4	237	Jr.	Birmingham, AL
86	Zach Ertz	TE	6-6	249	Sr.	Alamo
50	Brent Etiz	ILB	6-1	215	Sr.	Clovis
44	John Flacco	WR	6-2	193	Jr.	Audubon, NJ
73	Cameron Fleming	OT	6-6	308	Jr.	Houston, TX
37	Chris Gaertner	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Atherton
25	Tyler Gaffney	RB	6-1	216	Sr.	San Diego
49	Ben Gardner	DE	6-4	274	Sr.	Mequon, WI
9	Brandon Gottfried	TE	6-5	227	Jr.	Orange Beach, AL
56	Jacob Gowan	DT	6-3	256	Sr.	Santa Rosa
23	Ronnie Harris	DB	5-10	172	So.	Atlanta, GA
97	Anthony Hayes	DT	6-3	297	So.	Brooklyn Park, MN
40	Joe Hemschoot	ILB	6-1	215	Jr.	Lakewood, CO
85	Ryan Hewitt	FB	6-4	238	Sr.	Denver, CO
8	Kevin Hogan	QB	6-4	216	So.	McLean, VA
92	Charlie Hopkins	DE	6-6	270	So.	Spokane, WA
46	Matt Kasner	TE	6-4	224	So.	Granite Bay
80	Sam Knapp	WR	6-3	201	Sr.	Menlo Park
41	Cason Kynes	SS	5-9	192	Sr.	Annandale, VA
35	Jarek Lancaster	ILB	6-1	235	Sr.	Helotes, TX
43	Blake Lueders	OLB	6-5	258	Jr.	Zionsville, IN
2	Wayne Lyons	DB	6-1	194	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
90	Josh Mauro	DE	6-6	275	Sr.	Hurst, TX
61	Conor McFadden	C	6-3	275	Jr.	West St. Paul, MN
10	Geoff Meinken	FB	6-4	256	Sr.	Lynnwood, WA
51	Sam Mercer	ILB	6-0	217	So.	Thousand Oaks
88	Ty Montgomery	WR	6-2	205	So.	Dallas, TX
60	Brian Moran	OT	6-7	305	So.	Menlo Park
47	Myles Muagututia	SS	6-2	206	Sr.	Oceanside
93	Trent Murphy	OLB	6-6	255	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
20	Keanu Nelson	WR	5-11	173	Jr.	Tucson, AZ
7	Brett Nottingham	QB	6-4	210	Jr.	Alamo
6	Josh Nunes	QB	6-4	211	Sr.	Upland
10	David Olson	QB	6-3	216	Jr.	Columbia, SC
22	Kyle Olugbode	SS	6-1	195	Jr.	San Jose
58	David Parry	DT	6-2	295	Jr.	Marion, IA
21	Jamal-Rashad Patterson	WR	6-3	213	Sr.	McDonough, GA
13	Robbie Picazo	QB	6-3	211	Sr.	Santa Margarita
38	Ra'Chard Pippens	DB	6-2	185	So.	McDonough, GA
69	Eddie Plantaric	DE	6-5	277	Jr.	Orangevale
87	Jordan Pratt	WR	6-3	208	So.	Monmouth, OR
63	Kevin Reihner	OG	6-4	290	So.	Scranton, PA
29	Ed Reynolds	SS	6-2	204	Jr.	Orange Park, FL
14	Ben Rhyne	P	6-2	195	Jr.	Charlotte, NC
8	Jordan Richards	DB	5-11	211	So.	Folsom
84	Jemari Roberts	WR	6-3	222	Sr.	Long Beach
53	Torsten Rotto	OLB	6-2	233	So.	Woodbury, MN
72	J.B. Salem	DE/DT	6-4	260	So.	Newport Beach
64	Sam Schwartzstein	C	6-3	290	Sr.	Southlake, TX
30	Ricky Seale	RB	5-9	201	Jr.	Escondido
15	Brent Seals	SS	6-1	189	Sr.	Chino Hills
7	Patrick Skov	ILB	6-1	237	So.	Piedmont
11	Shayne Skov	ILB	6-3	251	Sr.	Piedmont
13	Rollins Stallworth	WR	6-4	190	So.	Reno, NV
99	Terrence Stephens	DT	6-2	295	Sr.	Gaithersburg, MD
29	Andrew Stutz	RB	6-1	202	Sr.	Scottsdale, AZ
24	Spencer Summers	K	5-8	173	So.	Minneapolis, MN
17	AJ Tarpley	ILB	6-2	232	Jr.	Plymouth, MN
33	Stepfan Taylor	RB	5-11	208	Sr.	Mansfield, TX
4	Drew Terrell	WR	5-11	180	Sr.	Chandler, AZ
44	Chase Thomas	OLB	6-4	245	Sr.	Marietta, GA
11	Levine Toilolo	TE	6-8	263	Sr.	La Mesa
18	Jeff Trojan	WR	6-3	183	Jr.	Huntington Beach
62	Austin Tubbs	LS	6-0	190	So.	San Clemente
50	Cole Underwood	OG	6-4	289	Jr.	Denton, TX
24	Cameron Vanderwall	OLB	6-3	208	So.	St. Paul, MN
9	James Vaughters	OLB	6-2	208	So.	Stone Mountain, GA
36	Lee Ward	FB	6-1	245	Jr.	Chesterfield, MO
46	Eric Whitaker	K	5-9	175	Sr.	San Diego
32	Anthony Wilkerson	RB	6-1	220	Jr.	Foothill Ranch
65	Khalil Wilkes	C	6-3	287	Sr.	Teaneck, NJ
19	Jordan Williamson	K	5-11	170	So.	Austin, TX
22	Remound Wright	RB	5-9	198	So.	Fort Wayne, IN
54	David Yankey	OT	6-5	302	Jr.	Roswell, GA
79	Alex Yazdi	DE	6-1	255	So.	Cave Creek, AZ
39	Kelsey Young	RB	5-10	190	So.	Norco
36	Daniel Zychlinski	P	6-3	213	Sr.	Tampa, FL

NOTEBOOK

Stanford's depth chart is dotted with holes, especially along the offensive line — a situation that would be cause for concern in a typical offseason. But the winter of 2012 was hardly typical.

On Feb. 1, Stanford signed the top offensive line class in the country — a seven-player group that has been called one of the best in college football history. It features four players ranked among the top-10 nationally at their positions: center **Graham Shuler**, guard **Joshua Garnett**, and tackles **Andrus Peat** and **Kyle Murphy**. They could compete for playing time the moment they set foot on campus.

The recruiting class also includes well-regarded players at defensive tackle (**Aziz Shittu**), safety (**Alex Carter**) and linebacker (**Noor Davis**). Oh, and the tailback is purported to be a decent player: **Barry Sanders Jr.**

In all, the class was ranked No. 5 by Rivals, making it the most-lauded in Stanford history. Not bad for a coach, **David Shaw**, in his first full year at the helm.

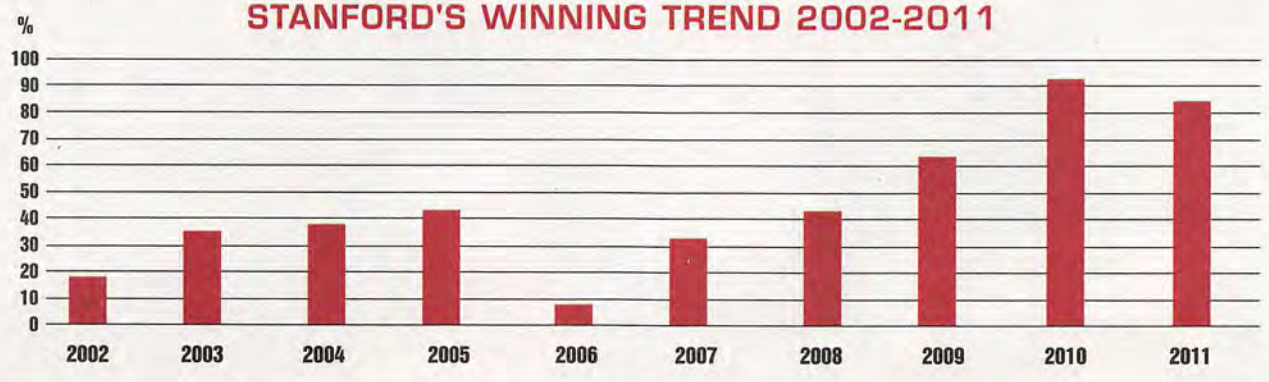
- Stanford concluded spring practice without knowing the status of backup tailback/Wildcat formation specialist **Tyler Gaffney**. The right-handed hitting outfielder is a top-tier baseball player who was considering turning pro in that sport. If he doesn't play football this fall, a spot on the depth chart could open up for Sanders Jr.

- Stanford once again experienced staff attrition, although nothing along the lines of the 2011 exodus of Jim Harbaugh and Co.

The most notable departure was that of co-defensive coordinator/linebackers Jason Tarver, who joined the Oakland Raiders staff. In his place, Stanford hired **David Kotulski** from Lehigh. The play-caller won't change, however: **Derek Mason** did it last year (with Tarver's input) and will do so again in 2012.

- Stanford's schedule features the usual suspects and one unusual date: The Cardinal will face rival Cal on Oct. 20, the earliest date for the Big Game in series history. The annual collision was moved from its standard slot (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) due to a variety of factors. It's expected to return to mid-November in 2013.

STANFORD'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



But the loss of right guard David DeCastro and left tackle Jonathan Martin create two major holes up front. Several heralded freshmen will be given a chance to earn playing time. There are options at right guard, but if nobody emerges at left tackle, Stanford may slide Yankey into that spot, thereby creating a hole at guard.

DEFENSE

Stanford's rugged defense was No. 3 in the nation against the run last season and should be stout once again. (It had better be, especially early in the season, given the expected growing pains on offense.)

The line loses dependable end Matt Masifilo but returns two starters in immoveable nose tackle Terrence Stephens and relentless end Ben Gardner, a second-team all-conference selection in '11. There are several quality candidates on the other side, with Henry Anderson and Josh Mauro topping the list.

The linebacking unit could be one of the nation's best if Shayne Skov, the unit's heart and soul, recovers fully from a severe knee injury suffered early last season.

His progress was on schedule as Stanford closed spring practice, but Skov is expected to be suspended for at least one game in the wake of a DUI arrest in January; the duration of the punishment could impact the speed with which he returns to top form.

Chase Thomas is a dynamic pass rusher (8.5 sacks) from the outside spot and occupies multiple blockers, thereby creating opportunities elsewhere.

After a quiet rookie year, talented sophomore James Vaughters should be an impact player at any of several positions, including rush end in passing situation. AJ Tarpley, Trent Murphy and Jarek Lancaster are experienced, versatile role players, while sophomore Kevin Anderson was impressive during spring practice.

"Our front seven is as good as you'll find in our conference," coach David Shaw said.

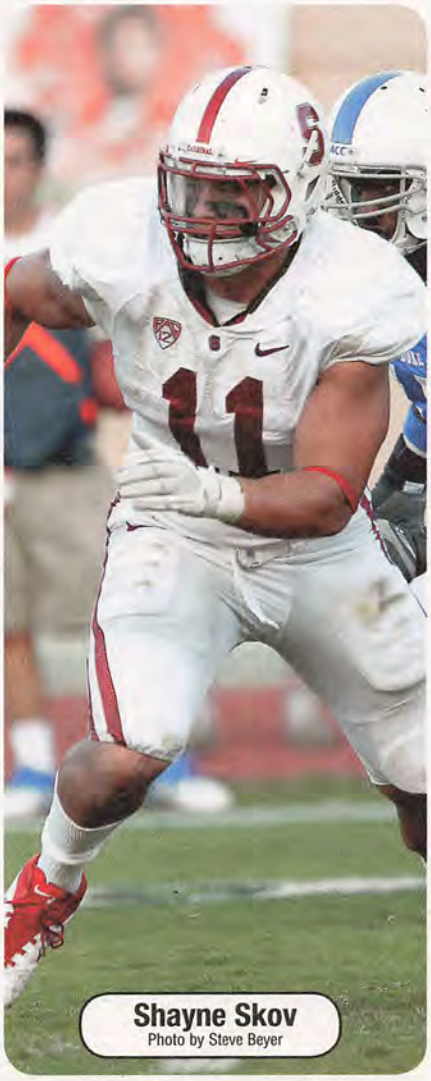
But as good as the front seven should be, the Cardinal's success depends on a secondary that did a poor job forcing turnovers last season and is loaded with questions. The unit lost three starters and will be counting on two young players — cornerback Wayne Lyons and safety Ed Reynolds — who are returning from serious injuries.

Lyons is one of the most gifted cornerbacks ever to play for Stanford but will compete with Barry Browning and Terrence Brown for a starting spot. Reynolds will try to unseat projected safety starters Jordan Richards and Devon Carrington.

All in all, Stanford has upgraded the secondary talent, but has taken a significant step back in experience.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Drew Terrell emerged in 2011 as the best Stanford punt returner in years, averaging 12 yards per return and breaking off



Shayne Skov
Photo by Steve Beyer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 210.6 ypg rushing (2nd in Pac-12/18th NCAA), 278.7 ypg passing (6th/22nd), 489.3 ypg total offense (2nd/8th), 43.2 ppg (2nd/7th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Brett Nottingham	Jr.	Expected to win the job in training camp.	Josh Nunes, Sr.
RB	Stepfan Taylor*	Sr.	Aiming for third straight 1,000-yard season.	Anthony Wilkerson, Jr.
FB	Ryan Hewitt*	Sr.	Good receiver can be used as tight end, H-back.	Lee Ward, Jr.
WR	Ty Montgomery	So.	Averaged 14.6 ypc, scored two TDs as rookie.	Jamal Rashad Patterson, Sr.
WR	Drew Terrell	Sr.	Counted on to provide a second downfield threat.	Keanu Nelson, Jr.
TE	Zach Ertz	Sr.	One of the Pac-12's best, especially on third down.	Levine Toilolo, Sr.
LT	David Yankey*	Jr.	Will play guard if a quality LT option emerges.	Cole Underwood, Jr.
LG	Khalil Wilkes	Sr.	In the starting mix at right guard as well.	Dillon Bonnell, Jr.
C	Sam Schwartzstein*	Sr.	All-league candidate with 13 career starts.	Conor McFadden, Jr.
RG	Kevin Danser	Sr.	Competition could extend deep into training camp.	Khalil Wilkes, Sr.
RT	Cameron Fleming*	Jr.	Gifted two-year starter anchors right side.	Brendon Austin, So.
K	Jordan Williamson*	So.	How will he respond to Fiesta disappointment?	Eric Whitaker, Sr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 84.4 ypg rushing (1st in Pac-12/3rd NCAA), 253.2 ypg passing (7th/95th), 337.6 ypg total defense (2nd/26th), 21.9 ppg (2nd/30th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Ben Gardner*	Sr.	Relentless pass rusher sets tone for front seven.	Josh Mauro, Sr.
DT	Terrence Stephens*	Sr.	Sealed epic win over USC with forced fumble.	Anthony Hayes, So.
DE	Henry Anderson	Jr.	Replaces steady run stopper Matt Masifilo.	Josh Mauro, Sr.
LB	Trent Murphy*	Sr.	Underrated member of elite linebacking unit.	Kevin Anderson, So.
LB	Shayne Skov*	Sr.	If healthy (and that's a big if), one of the nation's best.	James Vaughters, So.
LB	AJ Tarpley*	Jr.	Jarek Lancaster also a candidate to start.	Joe Hemschoot, Jr.
LB	Chase Thomas*	Sr.	Becoming a leader in the locker room, as well.	Alex Debniak, Sr.
CB	Terrence Brown*	Sr.	Talented veteran seeking consistency.	Harold Bernard, Sr.
CB	Wayne Lyons	So.	Missed most of 2011 with foot injury.	Barry Browning, Jr.
S	Devon Carrington	Jr.	Started five games last season; made 30 tackles.	Ed Reynolds, Jr.
S	Jordan Richards	So.	Reynolds, back from injury, had impressive spring.	Ed Reynolds, Jr.
P	Daniel Zychlinski	Sr.	Takes over for steady David Green.	Ben Rhyne, Jr.

*Returning Starter

CARDINAL RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Alex Carter	DB	6-0	193	★★★★	Ashburn, VA	Briar Woods
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Virginia…Rated as the nation's No. 3 safety…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Johnny Caspers	OL	6-3	270	★★★	Glen Ellyn, IL	Glenbard West
All-state selection…Chose Stanford over offers from Arizona, Bowling Green, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Toledo and Western Michigan.						
Conner Crane	WR	6-4	185	★★★	Denton, TX	Guyer
Rated as the nation's No. 87 wide receiver by Rivals.com…Had 46 receptions for 996 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior…Caught 35 passes for 854 yards and 11 TDs as a junior.						
Nick Davidson	OL	6-6	275	★★★★	Eden Prairie, MN	Eden Prairie
Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Minnesota by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 34 offensive tackle.						
Noor Davis	LB	6-4	233	★★★★	Leesburg, FL	Leesburg
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Florida…Rated as the nation's No. 4 outside linebacker…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Brandon Fanaika	OL	6-3	293	★★★★	Pleasant Grove, UT	Pleasant Grove
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Utah…Rated as the nation's No. 9 offensive guard…Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Joshua Garnett	OL	6-5	295	★★★★	Puyallup, WA	Puyallup
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 2 offensive guard…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Zach Hoffpauir	DB	5-11	195	★★★	Peoria, AZ	Centennial
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 29 safety.						
Dontonio Jordan	WR	5-11	185	★★★	Corinth, TX	Lake Dallas
Caught 45 passes for 588 yards and six touchdowns and rushed for 686 yards and 12 scores as a senior.						
Luke Kaumatule	DE	6-7	268	★★★★	Honolulu, HI	Punahou
Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 15 strongside defensive end.						
Nathanael Lohn	DE	6-3	265	★★★	Kansas City, MO	Staley
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 44 strongside defensive end.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Drew Madhu	DB	6-1	196	★★★	Tampa, FL	Plant
Racked up 266 tackles, 53 tackles for loss and four interceptions during his career… Third-team all-state selection.						
Blake Martinez	LB	6-1	242	★★★	Oro Valley, AZ	Canyon Del Oro
Rated as the nation's No. 40 inside linebacker by Rivals.com…Chose Stanford over Boise State, Oregon State and San Jose State.						
Kyle Murphy	OL	6-7	275	★★★★★	San Clemente, CA	San Clemente
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 3 offensive tackle…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Ikenna Nwafor	DT	6-5	298	★★★	Irving, TX	Cistercian Prep
Had 65 tackles and eight sacks as a senior…Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Andrus Peat	OL	6-7	305	★★★★★	Tempe, AZ	Corona Del Sol
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 6 offensive tackle…Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Michael Rector	WR	6-1	170	★★★	Tacoma, WA	Bellarmine Prep
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Caught 44 passes for 918 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior.						
Barry Sanders Jr.	RB	5-11	190	★★★★	Oklahoma City, OK	Heritage Hall
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Oklahoma…Rated as the nation's No. 9 running back…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Aziz Shittu	DE	6-3	275	★★★★★	Atwater, CA	Buhach
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 4 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 3 strongside defensive end…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Graham Shuler	OL	6-5	275	★★★★	Brentwood, TN	Brentwood Academy
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Tennessee…Rated as the nation's No. 21 offensive tackle…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Jordan Watkins	DT	6-5	265	★★★★	College Park, GA	Woodward Academy
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Georgia…Rated as the nation's No. 17 defensive tackle…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Kodi Whitfield	WR	6-2	197	★★★★	Los Angeles, CA	Loyola
Rated as the No. 37 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 48 wide receiver…Participated in the Cal State All-Star Game.						

A LOOK AT THE CARDINAL

RESULTS

	11-2, 8-1	
W	SAN JOSE STATE	57-3
W	at Duke	44-14
W	at Arizona	37-10
W	UCLA	45-19
W	COLORADO	48-7
W	at Washington State	44-14
W	WASHINGTON	65-21
W	at USC (3OT)	56-48
W	at Oregon State	38-13
L	OREGON	30-53
W	CALIFORNIA	31-28
W	NOTRE DAME	28-14
	Fiesta Bowl	
L	vs. Oklahoma State (OT)	38-41

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
A. Luck	13	288	404	10	71.3	3517	37
B. Nottingham	6	5	8	0	62.5	78	1

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. Taylor	13	242	1330	5.5	10	70	102.3
T. Gaffney	13	74	449	6.1	7	34	34.5
A. Wilkerson	13	56	282	5.0	3	38	21.7

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
G. Whalen	13	56	749	13.4	4	32	57.6
C. Owusu	10	35	376	10.7	2	43	37.6
C. Fleener	13	34	667	19.6	10	62	51.3

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Lancaster 70, M. Thomas 66, AJ Tarpley 57
Tackles for loss: C. Thomas 17.5, T. Murphy 10, B. Gardner 10
Sacks: C. Thomas 8.5, T. Murphy 6.5, B. Gardner 4.5
Interceptions: M. Thomas 3, four tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	SAN JOSE STATE	5-7
Sept. 8	DUKE	3-9
Sept. 15	USC	10-2
Sept. 27	at Washington	7-6
Oct. 6	ARIZONA	4-8
Oct. 13	at Notre Dame	8-5
Oct. 20	at California	7-6
Oct. 27	WASHINGTON STATE	4-8
Nov. 3	at Colorado	3-10
Nov. 10	OREGON STATE	3-9
Nov. 17	at Oregon	12-2
Nov. 24	at UCLA	6-8

PLAYER PROFILE

Chase Thomas
Photo by Bob Stanton/Icon SMI

Thomas Out to Prove He's Ready for NFL

Chase Thomas arrived at Stanford in the summer of 2008 with Andrew Luck, Jonathan Martin and David DeCastro to form the core of what would prove to be the greatest recruiting class in school history.

But Thomas did not depart with his three classmates.

Instead of joining them in the NFL Draft, Thomas opted to return for his senior season. What he called "one of the hardest decisions of my life" had as much to do with his love for Stanford football as the response he got from NFL draft evaluators.

In order to be a high-round draft pick, they said, Thomas needed to get bigger — at 245 pounds, he's not big enough to play outside linebacker in a 4-3 defense — and improve his coverage skills.

"There are a lot of things I need to improve on, parts of my game that aren't up to par for the NFL," he said. "(Scouts want) to see more flex in my hips. I've got to break on the ball better and set my feet."

In order to become the defensive leader Stanford needs, Thomas must become more vocal. He began that process during spring practice, with immediate and impressive results.

"He's without a doubt a leader," said defensive coordinator Derek Mason. "This is his defense — he's taken on that role. He has moved beyond being a quiet guy."

Thomas' career has been one of constant evolution. The communications major grew up in Marietta, Ga., and turned down scholarship offers from SEC schools in order to attend Stanford.

As a redshirt freshman, he started eight games at defensive end. As a sophomore, he moved to outside linebacker and was an honorable-mention All-Pac-10 selection. As a junior, he morphed into a dynamo, recording 8.5 sacks and 17.5 tackles for loss while earning first-team all-league honors.

In his final season, Thomas figures to be one of the most disruptive forces in the conference, if not the country.

But there is an inherent conflict in his role. Thomas' greatest value to Stanford is as a pass rusher, but NFL scouts will be focused on his coverage skills.

Cardinal coach David Shaw summed up the situation succinctly: "Whatever he puts on film (in pass coverage) needs to be great."

The rest of Thomas' game will be.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Stepfan Taylor

Quiet, steady senior will be Stanford's first option while the quarterback position solidifies and receivers emerge, but he must be patient against defenses stacked to stop the ground game. ... Second-team all-conference in 2011. ... He has rushed for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons. ... Was fabulous in the Fiesta Bowl with a career-high 177 yards. ... Has 13 games of 100 yards or more and ranks fourth on Stanford's career rushing list.

EMERGING STAR

WR/KR Ty Montgomery

The 6-2 sophomore from Dallas possesses breakaway speed and showed flashes of vast potential last season. ... Averaged 14.6 yards per reception (two touchdowns) and 25.2 yards per kickoff return (one touchdown). ... Capable runner who gained 42 yards on two carries ... Caught a 53-yard touchdown pass in Fiesta Bowl. ... Enters the season as Stanford's most established receiver but must refine his route-running and catch the ball consistently in order to join the league's elite.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Barry Sanders Jr.

Son of one of the greatest running backs in NFL history. ... Sanders turned down a scholarship offer from his father's alma mater (Oklahoma State) in order to carve his own path. ... Four-star recruit had offers from Alabama, Florida and Notre Dame. ... Dynamic runner with exceptional balance and vision (like his father). ... Capable receiver who could be used out of the backfield and on special teams.

several game-changing plays.

The Cardinal has a proven kick returner in Ty Montgomery (25.2 yards per attempt), but his expanded role at receiver may impact how frequently he is used on special teams. If that's the case, Stanford will choose from a number of inexperienced options.

The kicking game should be watched carefully: Sophomore Jordan Williamson made 12 of 15 field-goal attempts during the regular season but missed two critical kicks in the Fiesta Bowl.

Daniel Zychlinski is the favorite to punt, a position that will take on greater importance this season with the expected struggles on offense.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

For a team breaking in a new quarterback, Stanford's schedule is made-to-order — at least for two weeks. Home dates with San Jose State and Duke will give the Cardinal a chance to find its footing before USC pays a visit in Week 3 to start a difficult stretch.

Over the ensuing month, the Cardinal will visit Washington on a Thursday night, make the trip to Notre Dame and play its archrival, Cal, on the road (in an unprecedented October matchup).

The finish isn't much easier: Stanford will visit Oregon in mid-November and then head to UCLA for the regular-season finale. The bottom line: With six of the last nine on the road and the bye coming in September, it's a more difficult schedule than Stanford has faced in several years.

— Jon Wilner

UCLA BRUINS

For more coverage of the Bruins, visit ucla.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Noel Mazzone | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Lou Spanos** | **STADIUM: Rose Bowl: 91,500**

AT A GLANCE

2011:
6-8, 5-4 Pac-12 (2nd, South)

COACH:
Jim Mora — At UCLA and overall: 1st year

RETURNING STARTERS:
14; 5 offense, 8 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
RB Johnathan Franklin, WR Joseph Fauria, OL Xavier Su'a-Filo, DE Datone Jones, DE Cassius Marsh, LB Eric Kendricks, CB Aaron Hester, CB Sheldon Price

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
With tons of mature talent returning on defense, UCLA should play better, smarter defensive football. If the defensive line can get some push for the first time in two years, it will allow Hester and Price to thrive in coverage.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Mazzone wants to throw the ball around more, but does he have the offensive line — or the quarterback — to do so? A thin wide receiver unit is going to need to grow up quickly, too.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Derrick Coleman, WR Nelson Rosario, OT Mike Harris, C Kai Maiava, S Tony Dye

OVERVIEW:
Mora embarks on his first campaign, calling for the Bruins to improve in three areas: discipline, accountability and effort. Under Rick Neuheisel, those areas were sometimes ignored, and it showed in last year's results. When UCLA was bad, it was awful. But when it was good, it was pretty good, and Mora inherits some talent that just needs a little better steering.

Bruins Buzz: Mora's Early Moves Energize UCLA

To hear UCLA players tell it; they see the changes in all the little things.

The Bruins replaced campus hero Rick Neuehisel with outsider Jim L. Mora — dipping outside the UCLA coaching tree for the first time in a half-century — and the culture shift is being felt from the smallest detail.

It's in the last 18 inches of a 40-yard dash, when new strength and conditioning coach Sal Alosi — the program's first football-dedicated S&C coach — screams bloody murder. It's in the early-morning discipline workouts. It's in the equipment room and the training table.

It's in the smallest choice of words.

"When (Mora) first got here, he said we're not trying to just win the Pac-12, we're trying to win national championships," senior cornerback Sheldon Price said.

"Since I've been here, that was the first time — the very first time, man — that I heard anyone say anything about national championships. Everybody else just talked Pac-12 championships. Competing in the Pac-12. Look, everybody wants to win a championship, but for him to be like, the Pac-12 isn't enough, you want to be the best?

"That was a real game-changer."

It isn't the Bruins' game that needs changing, though. It is their attitude.

This is a talented group, to be sure, but one that has lacked discipline and fire. The word "soft" is not a label that is unearned overnight, and Mora and his scorching new coaching staff set out to change it early in their tenure. They hit the recruiting trail hard, pulling off a surprisingly loaded class, and developed a swagger that translated to the players.

"You're going to see more results," senior defensive end Datone Jones said.

"You're going to see the seed actually grow. Get the potential out of us. In the past, things weren't hard. Now it's hard. We're being put into situations that toughen us."

OFFENSE

Offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone has worked with some of the best quarterbacks across the country, resurrected offenses nationwide, perfecting an N-Zone spread offense that has befuddled defenses and bedazzled the scoreboard.

Adrian Klemm, the running game coordinator who also oversees the offensive line, has become one of the hottest coaching commodities on the market in just a few short years, flashing his three Super Bowl rings earned with the New England Patriots, hooking big fish after big fish.

If they can actually pull off the unthinkable — find UCLA a quarterback and an offensive line — Bruins fans might just put them up for knighthood.

Mazzone has an intriguing cast of quarterbacks, but 15 spring practices did little to convince him; coaches said they would announce the starter in mid-August. Redshirt freshman Brett Hundley and senior Richard Brehaut jumped to the front during the spring. Hundley is the superior athlete and leader; Brehaut has the better arm and experience.

The Bruins' QBTBD will be surrounded by a talented, but largely unproven, cast of contributors, both big and small. There's 6-7 tight end Joseph Fauria and 6-4 wide receiver Jerry Johnson, and there's much smaller Jordon James and Steven Manfro. All will be expected to contribute, perhaps none more than redshirt senior running back Johnathan Franklin.

Franklin narrowly missed a second-straight 1,000-yard season and drew rave reviews from the coaching staff for his ability and work ethic. He's joined in the backfield by former Gatorade National Player of the Year Malcolm Jones and a pair of intriguing scatbacks in James and Manfro, either of whom could emerge as a prolific player in Mazzone's pass-happy system.

The wide receiver unit is largely unproven but brimming with confidence after

Johnathan Franklin
Photo by George Bridges/MCT

BRUINS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
26	Andrew Abbott	DS	5-11	200	Sr.	Long Beach
41	David Allen	FB	6-2	224	Sr.	South Pasadena
60	Jeff Baca	OG	6-4	304	Sr.	Mission Viego
31	Librado Barocio	DC	5-9	175	So.	Los Angeles
11	Anthony Barr	OLB	6-5	238	Jr.	San Pedro
89	Jordan Barrett	Y	6-3	257	Jr.	Oak Park
3	Darius Bell	Y	6-0	230	Jr.	San Francisco
27	Christoph Bono	WR	6-1	162	Fr.	Palo Alto
25	Isaiah Bowens	ILB	6-2	235	Jr.	La Verne
70	Connor Bradford	OT	6-5	278	Sr.	Palmdale
12	Richard Brehaut	QB	6-2	226	Sr.	Alta Loma
54	Jake Brendel	C	6-5	295	Fr.	Plano, TX
64	Greg Capella	C	6-4	310	Jr.	Visalia
90	Donovan Carter	NT	6-2	313	Sr.	North Hills
72	Albert Cid	OG	6-4	305	Jr.	West Covina
10	Nick Crissman	QB	6-3	226	Sr.	Surfside
45	Alek Cusick	FB	6-1	235	Jr.	Orem, UT
22	Roosevelt Davis	WR	5-7	162	Fr.	Lancaster
78	Brett Downey	OT	6-7	305	Sr.	Altaville
20	Melvin Emesibe	RB	5-11	200	So.	Nashville, TN
98	Seali'i Epenesa	NT	6-2	323	Jr.	Waipahu, HI
1	Shaquelle Evans	WR	6-1	205	Jr.	Inglewood
18	Mike Fafaul	QB	6-3	215	Fr.	Cockeysville, MD
8	Joseph Fauria	Y	6-7	258	Sr.	Encino
78	Wesley Flowers	DL	6-5	254	So.	Fresno
23	Johnathan Franklin	RB	5-10	205	Sr.	Los Angeles
49	Luke Gane	FB	6-1	247	So.	Huntington Beach
55	Todd Golper	ILB	6-1	240	Jr.	Arcadia
59	Keenan Graham	OLB	6-3	252	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
66	Casey Griffiths	OG	6-5	292	Jr.	Roseville
45	Peter Hajimihalis	LS	5-9	195	Fr.	Hunt Valley, MD
93	Tre' Hale	De	6-2	308	So.	Rancho Cucamonga
32	Sam Handler	WR	6-0	200	Fr.	Barrington, IL
21	Aaron Hester	DC	6-1	205	Sr.	Compton
19	Dalton Hilliard	RB	6-0	205	Sr.	Mililani, HI
33	Ryan Hofmeister	OLB	6-2	220	Fr.	Riverside
43	Damien Holmes	OLB	6-4	260	Sr.	Grand Terrace
17	Brett Hundley	QB	6-4	225	Fr.	Chandler, AZ
63	Kody Innes	C	6-4	285	So.	Scottsdale, AZ
6	Jordon James	RB	5-11	200	So.	Corona
8	Anthony Jefferson	DC	6-1	190	So.	Los Angeles
9	Jerry Johnson	WR	6-4	218	Sr.	Los Angeles
56	Datone Jones	DE	6-5	280	Sr.	Compton
28	Malcolm Jones	RB	6-0	227	Jr.	Agoura Hills
30	Eric Kendricks	ILB	6-2	230	So.	Fresno
27	Jared Koster	DS	6-1	208	So.	Norco
42	Patrick Larimore	ILB	6-3	253	Sr.	Santa Clarita
42	Michael Leamy	P	5-11	183	Fr.	Lafayette
18	Jeff Locke	P/PK	6-1	214	Sr.	Glendale, AZ
53	Christopher Longo	LS	6-4	203	Fr.	La Canada
15	Devin Lucien	WR	6-1	192	Fr.	Encino
33	Steven Manfro	RB	5-11	195	Fr.	Castaic
99	Cassius Marsh	DE	6-4	295	Jr.	Simi Valley
7	Ricky Marvray	WR	6-0	190	Jr.	Corona
15	Alex Mascarenas	DS	5-10	188	Jr.	Mission Viejo
48	Kevin McDermott	LS	6-5	250	Sr.	Nashville, TN
7	Tevin McDonald	FS	6-0	202	So.	Fresno
4	Stan McKay	DS	6-1	205	Jr.	Long Beach
77	Kevin McReynolds	NT	6-3	310	Fr.	Silver Spring, MD
47	Ryan Medina	ILB	6-3	235	Sr.	Oxnard
11	Jerry Neuheisel	QB	6-2	190	Fr.	Los Angeles
94	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	6-5	278	Jr.	Portland, OR
14	Aramide Olaniyan	ILB	6-2	220	So.	Bowie, MD
73	Will Oliver	OT	6-7	305	Fr.	Brentwood
44	Mike Orloff	ILB	6-3	222	Fr.	Danvers, MA
67	Michael Padovese	OT	6-5	322	Fr.	
39	Dylan Price	DS	5-10	206	So.	Mission Viejo
22	Sheldon Price	Dc	6-2	185	Sr.	Chino Hills
4	Kevin Prince	QB	6-2	230	Sr.	Los Angeles
29	Jackson Reeder	WR	6-3	194	Fr.	Claremont
88	Jerry Rice, Jr.	WR	6-0	186	Jr.	Atherton
1	Dietrich Riley	DS	6-1	205	Jr.	Pasadena
21	Joe Roberts	PK	6-1	206	So.	Irvine
44	Phillip Ruhl	FB	6-0	225	So.	Stockton
58	Sam Saultz	OG	6-2	315	So.	Huntington Beach
81	Tyler Scott	WR	6-2	214	Fr.	Novato
2	Brandon Sermons	DC	6-0	185	Jr.	Diamond Bar
57	Jason Stewart	ILB	6-2	237	Fr.	Roseville
56	Xavier Su'a-Filo	OT	6-4	310	So.	Pleasant Grove, UT
86	Logan Sweet	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Mission Veijo
91	Sam Tai	DE	6-4	275	Fr.	Henderson, NV
96	Iuta Tepa	DE	6-2	268	Jr.	Long Beach
25	Damien Thigpen	WR	5-9	185	Jr.	Gainesville, VA
23	Anthony Thompson	DS	6-1	208	Fr.	Montreal, CAN
95	Brandon Tuliaupupu	NT	6-2	331	Fr.	La Verne
12	Aaron Wallace	OLB	6-4	235	Fr.	San Diego
75	Chris Ward	OG	6-4	318	Jr.	Huntington Beach
50	Jay Weneta	LS	6-0	216	Fr.	Yorba Linda
77	Torian White	OT	6-6	295	Fr.	Inglewood
92	Brandon Willis	DE	6-3	275	So.	Duncan, SC
55	Ben Wysocki	OG	6-4	300	Fr.	Seal Beach
71	Wade Yandall	OG	6-4	315	So.	Carson
85	John Young	Y	6-3	280	So.	Redondo Beach
29	Erick Zumwalt	DC	5-10	170	Fr.	Huntington Beach
35	Jordan Zumwalt	OLB	6-4	235	Jr.	Huntington Beach

NOTEBOOK

Jim Mora came to UCLA wielding a big stick and talking a good game. This was a new staff, and a new day, the coach proclaimed. Still, an undisciplined Bruins squad needed some proof, and it came early in spring ball. During one of the team's first practices, Mora halted the drills and gave his team an earful.

"A positive moment was when Coach Mora stopped practice and started yelling at all of us," linebacker **Damien Holmes** said. "The only reason it was encouraging for me is he said we're going to push you to new levels, and that was like, 'If you didn't believe me, believe me now.' That was a moment."

• The last hangers-on from former head coach **Rick Neuheisel's** first class in 2008 have vowed not to go out like their brethren. It has been a frustrating four years for those returning redshirt seniors, all 16 of them, including running back **Johnathan Franklin**.

"It's vital to me," said Franklin, who has led UCLA in rushing three times.

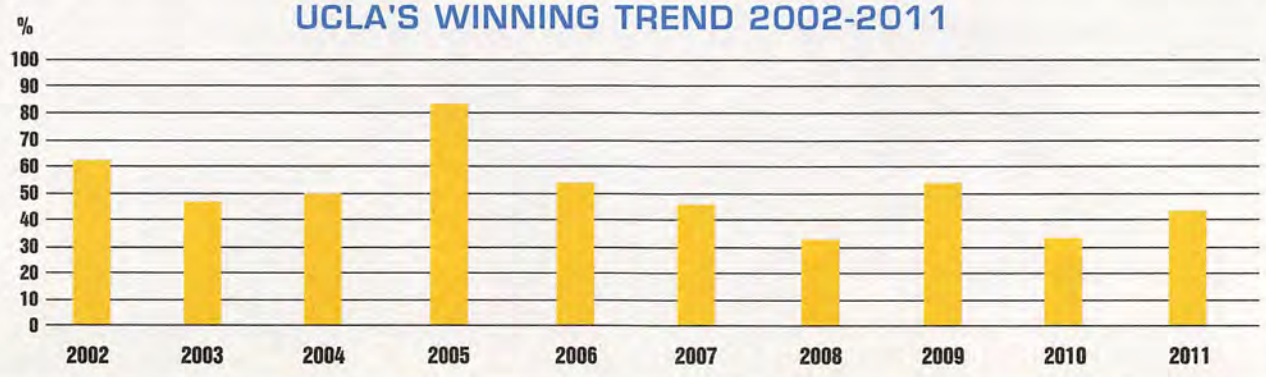
"That's one of the reasons I came to UCLA, to not come to a program at the top but take it to the top. I think all the time about all the guys who left 4-8, 6-6, 6-8. I don't want to be just another guy. I want it to be, 'Johnathan Franklin did this, he helped be a part of that 2012 team that turned things around.'"

• UCLA had zero NFL Draft picks in 2012, but the prospects look up for 2013. Senior tight end/Y receiver **Joseph Fauria** and senior punter **Jeff Locke** are considered among the best at their respective positions.

• Mora's biggest success early in his UCLA career might have been his raiding of the coaching community. Mora brought in offensive line coach **Adrian Klemm** from SMU, offensive coordinator **Noel Mazzone** and running backs coach **Steve Broussard** from Arizona State, and defensive backs coach **Demetrice Martin** from Washington.

The hires were roundly praised, and the effect was felt on Signing Day. UCLA landed one of the nation's top classes, ranking 13th by Rivals.com.

UCLA'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



a bountiful signing day and a productive spring ball. Johnson, Fauria and junior Shaq Evans are expected to lead a unit that took big strides under new wide receiver coach Eric Yarber, but it's the play of redshirt freshman Devin Lucien that has fans excited. He looks like a future star, as does incoming freshman Jordan Payton.

None of that will matter, however, unless Klemm can work wonders with a scarily thin offensive line.

Offensive tackle Xavier Su'a-Filo returns to anchor the unit from his two-year Mormon mission, but he is still working his way back into shape. Versatile veterans Jeff Baca and Greg Capella are nice pieces, but the Bruins need redshirt freshmen Torian White and Jake Brendel, and true freshmen Simon Goines and Carl Hulick, to quickly emerge.

DEFENSE

Can the UCLA defense mature up front? The Bruins have plenty of talent in the front line — led by defensive ends Datone Jones, Cassius Marsh and Owamagbe Odighizuwa, and defensive tackles Brandon Willis and Donovan Carter — and they bring in even more with hulking freshman defensive tackle Ellis McCarthy. But talent has never been the problem, production has.

"Extremely high expectations," defensive line coach Angus McClure said. "It's a group that's experienced, been in the program for years."

The experience up front and in the defensive backfield should make up for the inexperience that could befall the linebacker corps unless it can stay healthy. The much-maligned unit saw extensive injuries to projected starters Patrick Larimore and Jordan Zumwalt, and valuable backup inside linebacker Isaiah Bowens was lost for the season with a torn ACL in spring camp.

Much will fall onto the shoulders of redshirt sophomore inside linebacker Eric Kendricks, who emerged last season as a potential star, and converted defensive end Damien Holmes, a senior.

Kendricks is blessed with tremendous instincts, much like his older brother, Mychal, Cal's 2011 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year. Eric finished second on UCLA with 77 tackles despite starting just three games.

Holmes, meanwhile, looked like a natural as a first-timer at linebacker, trimming down for the position change. He showed great lateral movement and speed.

Any kind of pass rush — UCLA finished 112th nationally in sacks last season — will be a boon to a secondary long in talent and longer in experience. Cornerbacks Aaron Hester and Sheldon Price return for their senior seasons ready for breakout campaigns, but the real star could be sophomore safety Tevin McDonald, younger brother of USC standout safety T.J. McDonald.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It's hard to imagine spelling Kicker U.

Patrick Larimore
Photo by Jim Z. Rider-US PRESSWIRE

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 178.4 ypg rushing (3rd in Pac-12/37th NCAA), 198.3 passing (11th/81st), 376.6 total offense (9th/72nd), 23.1 ppg (10th/88th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Brett Hundley	Fr.	Hundley and Brehaut neck-and-neck in spring camp.	R. Brehaut, Sr./K. Prince, Sr.*
RB	Johnathan Franklin*	Sr.	Narrowly missed a second-straight 1,000-yard season.	Malcolm Jones, Jr.
WR	Shaq Evans	Jr.	Notre Dame transfer could blossom in 2nd year at UCLA.	Javon Williams, Fr.
WR	Jerry Johnson	Sr.	Playing with a rediscovered passion under new staff.	Jordan Payton, Fr.
WR	Devin Lucien	Fr.	Plays with great balance, control and ready to contribute.	Ricky Marvray, Jr.
Y	Joseph Fauria*	Sr.	Tabbed in spring as Mel Kiper's No. 1 TE in the draft.	Darius Bell, Jr.
LT	Xavier Su'a-Filo	So.	Returns from LDS mission and instantly upgrades the line.	Simon Goines, Fr.
LG	Greg Capella*	Jr.	A nice surprise last year, he'll be asked to do more now.	Albert Cid, Jr.
C	Jake Brendel	Fr.	With more strength, he could be a real player.	Carl Hulick, Fr.
RG	Jeff Baca*	Sr.	Elder statesman on the line will be critical to success.	Chris Ward, Jr.
RT	Torian White	Fr.	Raw, but blessed with great size; could be potential gem.	Brett Downey, Sr.
K	Ka'imi Fairbairn	Fr.	Coaches counting on him to be ready to go Day 1.	Jeff Locke, Sr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 190.6 ypg rushing (11th in Pac-12/96th NCAA), 226.6 passing (3rd/64th), 417.1 total defense (8th/89th), 31.4 ppg (8th/92nd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Cassius Marsh*	Jr.	Should benefit greatly from switch to 3-4 defense.	Owamagbe Odighizuwa, Jr.
DT	Brandon Willis	So.	World traveler finally settles in at UCLA, ready to play.	Ellis McCarthy, Fr.
DE	Datone Jones*	Sr.	Disappointing junior year has him motivated to go out on top.	Iuta Tepa, Jr.
LB	Damien Holmes*	Sr.	Switch to hybrid linebacker came with full body change.	Jeremy Castro, Fr.
LB	Patrick Larimore*	Sr.	Oft-injured but talented, he could be primed for big year.	Todd Golper, Jr.
LB	Eric Kendricks	So.	One of the best young linebackers in the conference.	Aramide Olaniyan, So.
LB	Jordan Zumwalt	Jr.	Health a concern, but has plenty of talent.	Keenan Graham, Jr.
CB	Aaron Hester*	Sr.	One half of impressive senior CB duo; ready to shine.	Anthony Jefferson, So.
CB	Sheldon Price*	Sr.	Four-year starter should be one of the best in Pac-12.	Ishmael Adams, Fr.
SS	Andrew Abbott*	Sr.	Ex-walk-on became UCLA's steadiest defender a year ago.	Dalton Hilliard, Sr.
FS	Tevin McDonald*	So.	Feast-or-famine as freshman; needs to increase consistency.	Stan McKay, Jr.
P	Jeff Locke*	Sr.	Career average of 44.6 yards is second in school history.	Joe Roberts, So.

*Returning Starter

BRUINS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Ishmael Adams	DB	5-10	185	✪✪✪✪	Westlake Village, CA	Oaks Christian
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 18 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 10 cornerback…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Eli Ankou	DE	6-3	255	✪✪✪	Bear, DE	Red Lion Christian Academy
Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Delaware by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 27 strongside defensive end.						
Jeremy Castro	DE	6-1	240	✪✪✪✪	Murrieta, CA	Vista Murrieta
Rated as the No. 40 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 17 weakside defensive end… Participated in the Cal State All-Star Game.						
Alexandru Ceachir	OL	6-5	300	✪✪✪	Santa Monica, CA	Santa Monica C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 44 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose UCLA over Arkansas, Colorado, Utah and others.						
Justin Combs	DB	5-9	170	✪✪	New Rochelle, NY	Iona Prep
Son of rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs…Had 45 tackles and one interception as a senior.						
Colby Cyburt	OL	6-5	265	✪✪✪	Mission Viejo, CA	Mission Viejo
Rated as the No. 59 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 48 offensive tackle.						
Ka'imi Fairbairn	K	6-0	165	✪✪	Honolulu, HI	Punahou
Connected on 12-of-18 field goals with a long of 55 yards as a senior…Chose UCLA over Cal.						
Devin Fuller	ATH	6-0	185	✪✪✪✪	Old Tappan, NJ	Old Tappan
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in New Jersey…Rated as the nation's No. 3 athlete…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Randall Goforth	DB	5-10	160	✪✪✪	Long Beach, CA	Poly
Rated as the No. 52 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 37 cornerback.						
Simon Goines	OL	6-7	290	✪✪✪	Keller, TX	Central
Rated as the No. 73 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 55 offensive tackle.						
Ahmad Harris	WR	5-8	170	✪✪	Suwanee, GA	Peachtree Ridge
Had 41 catches for 495 yards and two touchdowns as a senior... He had one rushing attempt which went for a 76-yard touchdown.						
Carl Hulick	OL	6-2	285	✪✪✪	Anaheim, CA	Esperanza
Rated as the No. 100 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 14 offensive center.						
Nate Iese	DE	6-5	240	✪✪✪	Elk Grove, CA	Sheldon
Rated as the No. 72 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Had 75 tackles and five sacks as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Taylor Lagace	WR	6-0	176	✪✪✪	Arcadia, CA	Arcadia
Had 63 receptions for 875 yards and five touchdowns as a senior…Caught 53 passes for 650 yards and 11 TDs as a junior.						
Ellis McCarthy	DT	6-5	295	✪✪✪✪✪	Monrovia, CA	Monrovia
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 3 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 4 defensive tackle…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
TJ Millweard	QB	6-4	230	✪✪✪	Fort Worth, TX	All Saints Episcopal
Rated as the No. 89 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 23 pro-style quarterback…Threw for 2,374 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior.						
Fabian Moreau	RB	6-0	180	✪✪✪	Davie, FL	Western
Rushed for 889 yards and 11 touchdowns and caught 21 passes for 416 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior.						
Kenny Orjioke	ATH	6-3	215	✪✪✪	Marietta, GA	Lassiter
Rated as the No. 61 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 65 athlete.						
Jordan Payton	WR	6-2	199	✪✪✪✪	Westlake Village, CA	Oaks Christian
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 16 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 15 wide receiver…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Paul Perkins	ATH	5-10	180	✪✪✪	Chandler, AZ	Chandler
Rated as the nation's No. 40 athlete by Rivals.com…Rushed for 1,297 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior.						
Aaron Porter	LB	6-2	230	✪✪✪✪	La Habra, CA	La Habra
Rated as the No. 36 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 22 outside linebacker.						
Marcus Rios	DB	6-0	170	✪✪✪✪	Elk Grove, CA	Cosumnes Oaks
Rated as the No. 35 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 21 cornerback.						
Ian Taubler	TE	6-4	235	✪✪✪	Fresno, CA	Bullard
Rated as the No. 85 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 29 tight end.						
Kenneth Walker	WR	6-0	170	✪✪✪	Richmon, CA	John F Kennedy
Rated as the No. 60 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 71 wide receiver.						
Lacy Westbrook	OL	6-5	300	✪✪✪✪	Compton, CA	Dominguez
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 34 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 25 offensive tackle.						
Javon Williams	WR	6-5	175	✪✪✪✪	Chandler, AZ	Chandler
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Arizona…Rated as the nation's No. 36 wide receiver.						

A LOOK AT THE BRUINS

RESULTS

	6-8, 5-4	
L	at Houston	34-38
W	SAN JOSE STATE	27-17
L	TEXAS	20-49
W	at Oregon State	27-19
L	at Stanford	19-45
W	WASHINGTON STATE	28-25
L	at Arizona	12-48
W	CALIFORNIA	31-14
W	ARIZONA STATE	29-28
L	at Utah	6-31
W	COLORADO	45-6
L	at USC	0-50
	Pac-12 Championship Game	
L	at Oregon	31-49
	Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl	
L	vs. Illinois	14-20

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
K. Prince	11	126	224	8	56.2	1828	12
R. Brehaut	7	67	121	1	55.4	948	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Franklin	14	166	976	5.9	5	40	69.7
D. Coleman	14	152	765	5.0	11	42	54.6
K. Prince	11	120	424	3.5	1	32	38.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
N. Rosario	14	64	1161	18.1	5	76	82.9
J. Fauria	14	39	481	12.3	6	32	34.4
T. Embree	13	20	228	11.4	2	25	17.5

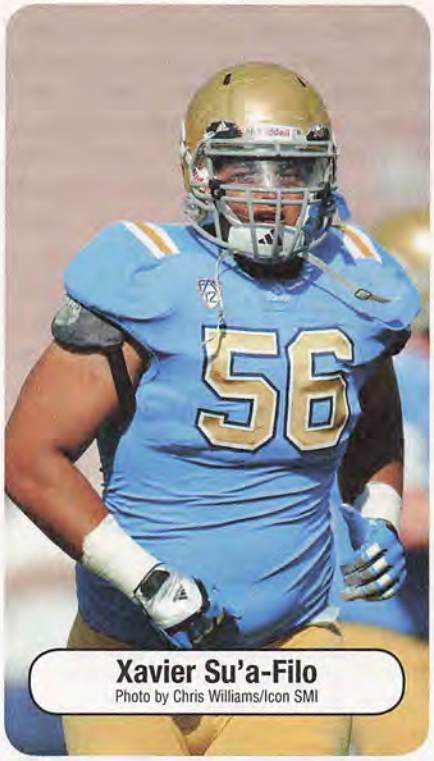
DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: P. Larimore 81, E. Kendricks 77, J. Zumwalt 60
Tackles for loss: D. Jones 6.5, J. Zumwait 6, D. Holmes 6
Sacks: D. Jones 3, E. Kendricks 2, C. Marsh 2
Interceptions: A. Abbott 4, T. McDonald 3, S. Westgate 3

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Aug. 30	at Rice	4-8
Sept. 8	NEBRASKA	9-4
Sept. 15	HOUSTON	13-1
Sept. 22	OREGON STATE	3-9
Sept. 29	at Colorado	3-10
Oct. 6	at California	7-6
Oct. 13	UTAH	8-5
Oct. 27	at Arizona State	6-7
Nov. 3	ARIZONA	4-8
Nov. 10	at Washington State	4-8
Nov. 17	USC	10-2
Nov. 24	STANFORD	11-2

PLAYER PROFILE



Xavier Su'a-Filo
Photo by Chris Williams/Icon SMI

Tackle Back for New Mission: Help O-Line

Xavier Su'a-Filo stayed in the United States for his two-year Mormon mission, venturing to Florida and Georgia. But for UCLA fans, it might as well have been Jupiter.

Su'a-Filo left a black hole at left tackle, his one season as a freshman in 2009 flashing like a supernova, brilliant, mesmerizing and in an instant, gone.

He arrived in Westwood in 2009 as the team's best offensive line recruit in more than a decade — a *Parade* All-American, a three-time state champion, the No. 1 player in the state of Utah, according to Rivals.com. He slid in almost immediately at left tackle and lived up to the hype, winning honorable mention all-conference honors from Pac-10 coaches.

The joy was short lived.

In December of his freshman season, during the team's trip east to Washington, D.C., for its EagleBank Bowl matchup with Temple, Su'a-Filo decided to embark on his LDS mission, leaving UCLA fans to wonder if he'd ever come back.

Rick Neuheisel's firing late last season, and the ensuing staff overhaul, caused even more worry.

Given the way he described his first meeting with new UCLA head coach Jim Mora and offensive line coach Adrian Klemm, though, it's obvious the fretting was for nothing. No handshakes, only hugs. He says he wasn't sure if the new Bruin staff would even want him back. They say he was their top priority.

"They told me they were coming over, then I got to sit down and my parents got to sit down and feel comfortable with Coach Mora and Coach Klemm," Su'a-Filo said.

"I was really able to connect with them and build a different relationship than I had with Coach Neuheisel and coach (Bob) Palcic. They're completely different coaches. But I still felt comfortable with them."

Su'a-Filo certainly looked comfortable in spring ball, his first football practices in more than two years, sliding right back in at left tackle.

After 15 practices, including the spring game, the 6-4, 310-pound sophomore said he still had to work on his conditioning and "little annoying things I'm working on in terms of technique," but he started to get his edge back.

"I feel a lot more in the football mood," he said, "just like a football player again."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Johnathan Franklin

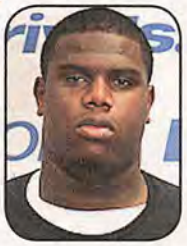
Narrowly missed a second-straight 1,000-yard season in the Pistol offense. ... Had six 80-yard performances despite averaging less than 12 carries a game. ... Only 25 career receptions, but expected to be more of a receiving threat in Noel Mazzone's offense. ... Good moves in traffic and great speed, hence the nickname "Jetski." ... Returned for senior season as team leader. ... New coaching staff loves his ability, durability. ... Will have to overcome fumble-itis to boost draft stock.

EMERGING STAR

LB Eric Kendricks

Despite only three starts, finished second on the team with 77 tackles as a redshirt freshman. ... Should become a star in the Bruins' new 3-4 defensive scheme. ... Great size (6-2, 230 pounds) for his position, and benefitted from redshirt year in the weight room. ... Plays with impressive balance, pad level and technique for an underclassman. ... Younger brother of 2011 Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year Mychal Kendricks (Cal). ... Son of former UCLA running back Marv Kendricks.

TOP NEWCOMER



DT Ellis McCarthy

UCLA's most coveted recruit in more than a decade was a coup for the new coaching staff. ... Ranked No. 4 defensive tackle in the country by Rivals.com and the 21st-best prospect in the nation. ... De-committed from Cal after defensive line coach Tosh Lupoi left for Washington. ... Listed at 6-5, 295 but plays even bigger, with tremendous strength for an incoming freshman. ... Expected to compete for time early at both defensive line positions.

without the K, but the Bruins were all iced out lasted season.

Now, incoming freshman Ka'imi Fairbairn comes in with big hopes from the coaching staff. He has a strong right leg, but if he falters, UCLA can turn to one of the best left legs in the game in punter Jeff Locke, who was rated in spring as the top punting prospect for the draft by ESPN's Mel Kiper.

The return game is full of uncertainty. The Bruins are replacing both positions, but the production has been so bad, it's almost as if they're starting anew, and Jordon James and Ricky Marvray will likely get the first look.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Sometimes the schedule just lines up perfectly, not only in the quality of the opponent, but the timing of the matchups. For Mora and Co., Year One could not line up better.

For the second straight season after the conference realigned in 2011, the Bruins will avoid league power Oregon and rising Washington from the North division, drawing Oregon State and Washington State instead. The toughest matchups, against USC and Stanford, come at the end of the year.

UCLA's non-conference schedule is favorable, as well, with a major test against Nebraska at the Rose Bowl in the second week. That game is sandwiched by two Houston battles, as the Bruins open at Rice in a Thursday night game and then host the Cougars in the third week.

— Jon Gold

UTAH UTES

For more coverage of the Utes, visit utah.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Brian Johnson, Aaron Roderick **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Kalani Sitake **STADIUM:** Rice-Eccles Stadium: 45,017

AT A GLANCE

2011:
8-5, 4-5 Pac-12 (T-3rd, South)

COACH:
Kyle Whittingham — At Utah and overall: 66-25, 7 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
14; 5 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Jordan Wynn, RB John White IV, WR DeVonte Christopher, DE Nate Fakahafua, DT Star Lotulelei, DE Joe Kruger, SS Brian Blechen, FS Eric Rowe

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Utah returns major headliners on offense and defense. White is back for an encore after breaking a 29-year-old single-season rushing record with 1,519 yards. Lotulelei is the star of a defensive front that should be the best in the Pac-12. He won the prestigious Morris Award last season as the conference's top defensive lineman.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
Replacing offensive tackles Tony Bergstrom and John Cullen could be an issue. The Utes have plenty of candidates, but four projected contenders — J.J. Dielman, Carlos Lozano, Jeremiah Poutasi and Marc Pouvave — weren't with the team this spring and will compete with others this fall.

KEY LOSSES:
FB Shawn Asiata, OT Tony Bergstrom, OT John Cullen, DE Derrick Shelby, DT James Aiono, DL Tevita Finau, LB Matt Martinez, LB Chaz Walker, CB Conroy Black

OVERVIEW: After righting the ship with a Sun Bowl victory over Georgia Tech, the Utes carry some momentum into their second season in the Pac-12. Increased depth overall and more stability at quarterback should make them more competitive this season. USC likely remains out of reach in the South, but the Utes should at least be knocking on the door of the Top 25.

Utes Riding Momentum, Depth into 2012

Utah's first season in the Pac-12 proved to be quite a rollercoaster ride.

The Utes opened league play with four consecutive losses and followed with four straight victories. Then came a surprising 17-14 setback at home to Colorado, a loss that ultimately cost them a chance to represent the South Division in the inaugural Pac-12 Championship Game.

Utah bounced back, however, to defeat Georgia Tech in the Sun Bowl. The 30-27 overtime win restored some momentum for 2012.

It isn't the only thing, however, that the Utes are building upon.

"We've put together successive recruiting classes now that have definitely helped us with our depth," said coach Kyle Whittingham. "I think we're going to be very competitive."

There's a qualifier. Whittingham noted that the Utes have to shore up graduation-created vacancies at offensive tackle and linebacker.

Another big change involves the coaching staff, where 25-year-old quarterbacks coach Brian Johnson has replaced Norm Chow as offensive coordinator. Johnson is 41 years younger than Chow, now the head coach at Hawaii.

"I've learned from a lot of great people," Johnson said. "I've been around a lot of great coaches and studied them closely. I'm ready for this challenge."

Johnson said the transition, thus far, has been smooth. Increased depth and talent on the roster has aided in the process, making the Utes much more versatile and unpredictable than last season.

"We feel real good about the type of players that we have," Johnson said. "We feel like we have a ton of playmakers around."

Utah's defense also has an abundance of skilled players, plus a lot of experience. Same goes for special teams.

Question is, will it all add up to run for the roses? If nothing else, the quest will be entertaining to watch.

OFFENSE

When Jordan Wynn went down with a shoulder injury in the fourth game of 2011, Jon Hays became Utah's starting quarterback. It was quite a promotion for the junior college transfer. Hays was originally ticketed for Nebraska-Omaha, but the school dropped football, and he wound up signing with the Utes after spring ball was complete.

Although Hays made nine starts and threw for 1,459 yards and 12 touchdowns, his quick ascension was proof positive that Utah lacked depth at quarterback.

Things have changed. The arrival of highly touted true freshmen Travis Wilson and Chase Hansen has suddenly made the position a deep one for the Utes.

"This is a quarterback-driven league and we have got to get great quarterback play to have a chance to challenge," Whittingham said. "There's no secret about that."

Wynn has reclaimed his spot on top of the depth chart and enters fall camp as the starter. Nothing, however, is set in stone. Whittingham said the others closed the gap considerably in spring ball, and Wynn will have to respond to the competition.

"Jordan is still our starter, but the best guy is going to play here — regardless of circumstances," Whittingham said. "Everybody's got to perform in order to maintain their jobs."

Speaking of performance, running back John White IV is coming off a stellar campaign. The all-conference honoree topped the Pac-12 with 316 carries last season, averaging 116.8 yards per game. White's load could be lightened in 2012 with the arrival of heralded junior college transfer Kelvin York.

Utah also has a lot of talent at wide receiver. Top targets include seniors DeVonte Christopher, Reggie Dunn and Luke

John White
Photo by Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

UTES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
60	Siaosi Aiono	OL	6-2	305	Fr.	West Covina, CA
	Brian Allen	WR	6-3	197	Fr.	La Marque, TX
39	Kaeo Alo	FB	5-9	258	So.	Laie, HI
45	Boo Andersen	LB	6-1	240	Sr.	Sandy
6	Dres Anderson	WR	6-1	175	So.	Riverside, CA
46	Jeff Battle	DB	6-1	202	Fr.	Lenoir, NC
4	Brian Blechen	DB	6-2	215	Jr.	Moorpark, CA
74	Sam Brenner	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	Oceanside, CA
43	Afa Bridenstine	LB	6-0	230	Fr.	Kahuku, HI
52	Nick Brown	LB	6-3	218	Jr.	Orem
24	Joseph Bryant	DB	6-3	198	Fr.	Bryan, TX
35	Tyler Cahoon	DB	6-1	204	Jr.	Draper
88	Steven Carpenter	WR	6-2	195	So.	Tulsa, OK
19	Quade Chappuis	DB	5-11	198	Jr.	Alpine
10	DeVonte Christopher	WR	6-1	200	Sr.	Las Vegas, NV
29	Parker Cracroft	DB	5-11	195	So.	Salt Lake City
29	Jake Cusick	WR	5-11	188	Fr.	Provo
73	Kalvin Cusick	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Orem
4	Mitch Dahlen	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Redmond, OR
20	Eric Davidson	RB	5-7	197	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
8	Anthony Denham	WR	6-4	222	Jr.	Monterey Park, CA
	J.J. Dielman	OL	6-4	243	Fr.	Ahwatukee, AZ
91	Hunter Dimick	DE	6-3	254	Fr.	Syracuse
14	Reggie Dunn	WR	5-10	170	Sr.	Compton, CA
51	Dave Fagergren	LB	6-0	222	Sr.	Salt Lake City
96	Nate Fakahafua	DE	6-3	240	So.	Salt Lake City
98	Seni Fauonuku	DT	5-11	295	Fr.	West Jordan
7	V.J. Fehoko	LB	5-11	223	So.	Honolulu, HI
42	LT Filiaga	LB	6-0	240	Fr.	Provo
83	Sean Fitzgerald	WR	6-3	200	Jr.	Mission Viejo, CA
	Moses Folauhola	DL	6-0	252	Fr.	West Valley City
23	Wykie Freeman	DB	5-11	175	Jr.	Pasadena, TX
71	Kala Friel	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Kaneohe, HI
62	Patrick Greene	SN	6-2	227	Sr.	Monrovia, CA
40	Jacoby Hale	LB	6-0	225	So.	Beaumont, TX
5	Chase Hansen	QB	6-3	212	Fr.	Highland
65	Nick Hatch	DL	6-2	243	So.	Draper
9	Jon Hays	QB	6-0	205	Sr.	Paradise, CA
68	Latu Heimuli	OL	6-2	315	Jr.	Salt Lake City
85	Charles Henderson	WR	5-9	187	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
25	Mike Honeycutt	DB	5-10	182	Jr.	Cedar Hills
	Reshawn Hooker	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Fontana, CA
17	Chandler Johnson	DB	6-0	177	So.	South Jordan
64	Vyncent Jones	OL	6-3	300	Jr.	Sandy
39	Michael Kirby	DB	5-11	195	Fr.	Boise, ID
44	Dave Kruger	DT	6-5	295	Sr.	Orem
99	Joe Kruger	DE	6-7	275	Jr.	Orem
26	Ryan Lacy	DB	5-9	190	Sr.	Antelope, CA
	Lio Lafaele	OL	6-3	335	Fr.	Corona, CA
21	Harvey Langi	RB	6-1	228	So.	South Jordan
50	Ofa Latu	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Provo
5	Mo Lee	DB	6-1	195	Sr.	Miami, FL
93	Niasi Leota	DT	6-4	245	Jr.	West Valley City
	Zach Lindsay	OL	6-7	327	Fr.	Kaysville
92	Star Lotulelei	DT	6-4	325	Sr.	South Jordan
	Carlos Lozano	OL	6-6	385	Jr.	Montebello, CA
33	Robbie Lusk	RB	6-0	212	So.	Alpine
	Hiva Lutui	OL	6-2	277	Fr.	Euless, TX
45	Johnny Mahe	FB	6-1	245	Jr.	West Jordan
32	Chase Maires	DB	5-9	187	So.	The Woodlands, TX
94	Tevita Malafu	DL	6-1	211	Fr.	Kihei, HI
	Alphonso Marsh	DB	6-2	183	Fr.	Compton, CA
30	Nick Marsh	K/P	5-11	200	Jr.	Petaluma, CA
72	Miles Mason	OL	6-3	312	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
11	Luke Matthews	WR	6-2	206	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
	Delshawn McClellon	WR	5-9	165	Fr.	North Long Beach, CA
1	Keith McGill	DB	6-3	205	Sr.	La Mirada, CA
27	Bryson McKenzie	RB	5-11	229	Fr.	Lehi
16	Griff McNabb	WR	5-7	160	Jr.	Pocatello, ID
6	Devin Mickles	DB	5-9	175	So.	Ogden
48	Max Moala	FB	5-11	246	Sr.	Salt Lake City
81	Kendrick Moeai	TE	6-5	246	Sr.	West Jordan
27	Tyron Morris-Edwards	DB	6-1	200	So.	Draper
82	Jake Murphy	TE	6-4	255	So.	Alpine
78	Daniel Nielson	OL	6-6	317	Fr.	Hurricane
59	Sam Nielson	LB	5-11	223	Fr.	Salt Lake City
41	Jared Norris	LB	6-1	230	Fr.	Bakersfield, CA
25	Geoff Norwood	RB	5-8	175	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
	Moana Ofahengaue	LB	6-3	205	Fr.	Saratoga Springs
36	Jarrell Oliver	RB	5-8	210	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
22	Thretton Palamo	DE	6-2	250	Jr.	Sacramento, CA
	Tenny Palepoi	DT	6-2	295	Jr.	Salt Lake City
87	Quinton Pedroza	WR	6-2	217	So.	Chino, CA
63	Joape Pela	DT	6-1	308	Sr.	East Palo Alto, CA
95	Coleman Petersen	K/P	6-2	190	Sr.	Sandy
	Reginald Porter	DB	5-11	202	Fr.	Amite, LA
	Jeremiah Poutasi	OL	6-5	322	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
	Marc Pouvave	OL	6-4	336	Jr.	Chula Vista, CA
44	Lucky Radley	RB	5-8	185	So.	Inglewood, CA
33	Terrell Reese	DB	6-0	205	So.	Chappell Hill, TX
49	Trevor Reilly	LB	6-5	240	Jr.	Valley Center, CA
40	Cody Rogers	K	5-11	173	Fr.	Draper
89	Dallin Rogers	TE	6-3	245	Sr.	Placerville, CA
34	Ronan Rogers	LB	6-3	217	Fr.	South Jordan
47	David Rolf	TE	6-4	250	Sr.	Salt Lake City
18	Eric Rowe	DB	6-1	200	So.	Spring, TX
56	Kapua Sai	OL	6-4	316	Jr.	Kahalu'u, HI
	Junior Salt	DT	6-2	340	Jr.	Glendale
34	Andrew Santiago	WR	5-11	183	Fr.	Provo
12	Adam Schulz	QB	6-1	194	Fr.	Muskego, WI
2	Kenneth Scott	WR	6-3	202	So.	Fontana, CA
86	Sean Sellwood	P	6-3	205	Sr.	Salt Lake City
20	Joseph Smith	DB	5-9	187	So.	Corona, CA
31	Victor Spikes	LB	6-0	219	Jr.	Beaumont, TX
53	Andy St. Pierre	LB	6-2	218	So.	Highlands Ranch, CO
54	Tevita Stevens	OL	6-3	302	Sr.	Hemet, CA
19	Cody Stevenson	QB	6-4	202	Fr.	Draper
79	Percy Taumoelau	OL	6-4	315	Jr.	Glendale
84	Cameron Taylor	TE	6-4	249	Fr.	Sandy
	Justin Thomas	DB	5-9	170	Fr.	Orange, TX
76	Jeremiah Tofaeono	OL	6-2	317	Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
80	Westlee Tonga	DE	6-4	250	Jr.	Spring, TX
28	Reggie Topps	DB	5-11	186	Sr.	Prunedale, CA
26	Tanjueray Towns	WR	6-0	156	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
58	LT Tuipulotu	DT	6-1	303	Jr.	Euless, TX
	Sione Tupouata	DE	6-4	255	So.	Oakland, CA
66	Victor Unga	DL	5-11	387	Fr.	Provo
35	Richie Vakapuna	RB	5-5	205	Fr.	West Jordan
9	Lewis Walker	DB	5-11	170	Sr.	Salt Lake City
15	Michael Walker	DB	5-9	188	Jr.	Brenham, TX
90	David Weixler	OL	6-3	273	Fr.	Salt Lake City
15	John White IV	RB	5-8	186	Sr.	Torrance, CA
21	Tyler White	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
55	Jason Whittingham	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Provo
38	Karl Williams	FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Layton
7	Travis Wilson	QB	6-6	204	Fr.	San Clemente, CA
3	Jordan Wynn	QB	6-2	207	Jr.	Oceanside, CA
13	Kelvin York	RB	5-11	225	Jr.	Prairieville, LA

NOTEBOOK

Norm Chow's return to his alma mater didn't last long. He became the head coach at Hawaii after one season with the Utes. In his place, head coach **Kyle Whittingham** promoted then-24-year-old quarterbacks coach **Brian Johnson** to offensive coordinator.

The former quarterback was the Most Outstanding Player in Utah's 2009 Sugar Bowl victory over Alabama.

After spending a month conducting a national search, Whittingham said it became apparent that the best candidate to replace Chow was already on the staff.

"Brian is a leader and a special coaching talent, just as he was a special player, and he is the right person to lead our offense," Whittingham announced on Feb. 2.

Other staff changes include the addition of offensive line coach **Dan Finn** from San Diego State; fullback and tight ends coach **Ilaisa Tuiaki** from Utah State; and cornerbacks coach **Sharrieff Shah**, a former Ute who spent the past several years as a trial attorney and radio sideline reporter.

Special teams coordinator **Jay Hill** shifts from cornerbacks to running backs coach, and defensive coordinator **Kalani Sitake** added the title of assistant head coach.

• Starting quarterback **Jordan Wynn** endured two shoulder surgeries in a 10-month span.

The second one followed last year's season-ending injury against Washington on Oct. 1. Wynn didn't speak with the media during his recovery and showed up at spring ball with a bulked up frame. Whittingham joked that the junior no longer had No. 2 pencils for arms. Wynn participated in every spring practice and never missed a rep.

"It's been a while since I've been able to do that," Wynn said. "So it's very positive for me. It's something that I'm not taking lightly."

Wynn hopes to have his weight up to 220 by fall camp, about 20 pounds heavier than he was last season.

• To make room for Utah's new $30 million football facility, Whittingham was enlisted by contractors to help bulldoze the old complex in March. He kicked things off by knocking down a few walls.

"I've always been fascinated by big machinery and heavy-duty stuff," Whittingham said. "I tell you what, that's a feeling of power when you're up there."

UTAH'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011

Matthews, as well as sophomores Dres Anderson and Kenneth Scott. Sophomore Jake Murphy is among several strong candidates at tight end.

Whittingham said the key to success on offense, however, will be replacing all-conference tackles Tony Bergstrom and John Cullen. The issue will be decided this fall since many competitors weren't with the team this spring.

The interior spots likely will be manned by returning veterans Tevita Stevens, Sam Brenner and Jeremiah Tofaeono.

DEFENSE

There's a big star on Utah's defensive line, the aptly named Star Lotulelei.

The senior tackle, who won the Morris Trophy last season as the Pac-12's top defensive lineman, headlines a talented starting front four. The cast includes the Kruger brothers — Dave and Joe — as well as rising star Nate Fakahafua. They're backed by several talented reserves, giving Utah depth to combat fatigue in the trenches.

Although experience is plentiful on the defensive line, there's a youth movement taking place at linebacker. The Utes have a pool of sophomores and freshmen set to replace last season's tackle leaders Chaz Walker and Matt Martinez, who have graduated.

"I'm not too concerned," said defensive coordinator Kalani Sitake. "There's a lot of talent there."

Sitake is focused on finding the right mix. Sophomore V.J. Fehoko is the top contender to start at middle linebacker. Sophomore Jacoby Hale and redshirt freshman LT Filiaga are leading candidates at rover. Redshirt freshmen Jared Norris and Jason Whittingham are among others competing for playing time.

"We have a lot of what we feel are quality linebackers in the program," coach Whittingham said. "They just lack experience."

Whittingham noted that the group has a tremendous upside. It's just a matter of getting them some experience.

Junior Trevor Reilly, the returning starter at STUD, is now the veteran of the linebacker corps. He'll also see time at defensive end in nickel packages.

"I think we're going to be good on defense," Whittingham said. "But we can be very good if those young linebackers develop quickly enough."

Utah's secondary has come of age. Starting safeties Brian Blechen and Eric Rowe are former Freshman All-Americans. Blechen, a junior, is a formidable force at strong safety. He's made 26 career starts, including some at linebacker, while racking up 145 tackles and seven interceptions.

Rowe, a sophomore, patrols the free safety position. He tallied 69 stops and had nine pass breakups last season.

At cornerback, seniors Ryan Lacy and Mo Lee are the projected starters. They combined for 16 pass breakups and five interceptions in 2011. Junior Mike Honeycutt is the frontrunner at nickel back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

With all of Utah's major contributors

Brian Blechen
Photo by Steve Beyer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 137.6 ypg rushing (7th in Pac-12/80th NCAA), 173.2 passing (12th/99th), 310.8 total offense (12th/109th), 25.0 ppg (9th/74th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Jordan Wynn	Jr.	Shoulder injury limited him to four games in 2011.	Travis Wilson, Fr.
RB	John White IV*	Sr.	Broke single-season school record with 1,519 yards.	Kelvin York, Jr.
WR	Dres Anderson	So.	Son of former NFL star Willie "Flipper" Anderson.	Griff McNabb, Jr.
WR	DeVonte Christopher*	Sr.	Team's leading receiver for the past two seasons.	Kenneth Scott, So.
WR	Luke Matthews*	Sr.	Versatile athlete had 17 catches for 263 yards in 2011.	Reggie Dunn, Sr.
TE	Jake Murphy	So.	Strong spring puts him on top of a deep depth chart.	Westlee Tonga, Jr.
LT	Percy Taumoelau	Jr.	Will be pushed in fall camp by several newcomers.	Marc Pouvave, Jr.
LG	Jeremiah Tofaeono	Jr.	Completed spring ball as the projected starter this fall.	Latu Heimuli, Jr.
C	Tevita Stevens*	Sr.	Set to be a four-year starter, including two in the middle.	Vyncent Jones, Jr.
RG	Sam Brenner*	Sr.	Veteran was a high school teammate of Jordan Wynn.	Siaosi Aiono, Fr.
RT	Daniel Nielson	Fr.	Among the top candidates to replace Tony Bergstrom.	Carlos Lozano, Jr.
K	Coleman Petersen*	Sr.	Honorable mention all-conference honoree last season.	Nick Marsh, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 113.5 ypg rushing (3rd in Pac-12/20th NCAA), 237.4 passing (4th/74th), 350.9 total defense (3rd/38th), 20.2 ppg (1st/19th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Nate Fakahafua	So.	Athletic lineman growing into a sizable stopper.	Thretton Palamo, Jr.
DT	Dave Kruger*	Sr.	Three-year starter is back for his final college campaign.	Junior Salt, Jr.
DT	Star Lotulelei*	Sr.	Won the Morris Trophy as Pac-12's top lineman in 2011.	Seni Fauonuku, Fr.
DE	Joe Kruger*	Jr.	Standing tall at 6-7, made three sacks last season.	Niasi Leota, Jr.
LB	Jacoby Hale	So.	Will battle Filiaga for the starting job in fall camp.	LT Filiaga, Fr.
LB	V.J. Fehoko	So.	Named the "Hardest Hitter in America" in high school.	Jared Norris, Fr.
LB	Trevor Reilly*	Jr.	Big-play defender will also see action at defensive end.	Jason Whittingham, Fr.
CB	Ryan Lacy*	Sr.	Sixth in the Pac-12 last season in passes defended (12).	Keith McGill, Sr.
CB	Mo Lee	Sr.	Speedy cornerback intercepted three passes as a junior.	Wykie Freeman, Jr.
SS	Brian Blechen*	Jr.	Picked off three passes and forced three fumbles in '11.	Quade Chappuis, Jr.
FS	Eric Rowe*	So.	Encore following Freshman All-America campaign.	Tyron Morris-Edwards, So.
P	Sean Sellwood*	Sr.	Has placed 45 punts inside the 20 during his career.	Nick Marsh, Jr.

*Returning Starter

UTES RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Brian Allen	WR	6-3	197	✪✪✪	La Marque, TX	La Marque
Had 50 receptions for 821 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Utah over Nevada, North Texas, UTEP and Wyoming.						
J.J. Dielman	OL	6-4	243	✪✪✪	Phoenix, AZ	Desert Vista
Chose Utah over offers from Arizona State, Fresno State, Northern Arizona, San Diego State, San Jose State and UNLV.						
Hunter Dimick	DE	6-3	254	✪✪✪	Syracuse, UT	Syracuse
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Had 50 tackles and 14 sacks as a junior.						
Moses Folauhola	DE	6-0	252	✪✪	West Valley City, UT	Hunter
Second-team all-state selection..Also lettered in basketball and track…Chose Utah over Utah State.						
Chase Hansen	ATH	6-3	212	✪✪✪✪	Highland, UT	Lone Peak
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 20 athlete…Passed for 3,066 yards and 38 touchdowns and rushed for 1,404 yards and 16 TDs as a senior.						
Reshawn Hooker	LB	6-0	200	✪✪✪	Fontana, CA	A.B. Miller
Rated as the No. 57 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 43 outside linebacker.						
Jake Jackson	LB	6-3	205	✪✪	Carlsbad, CA	La Costa Canyon
Had 103 tackles and 11 sacks as a senior...Plans to serve a church mission before joining the Utes.						
Lio Lafaele	OL	6-3	335	✪✪✪	Corona, CA	Centennial
First-team all-league selection…Helped lead team to a 14-1 record in 2010 and 12-2 record in 2011.						
Austin Lee	DB	6-0	185	✪✪✪	Sandy, UT	Alta
Had 41 tackles, one interception and nine pass breakups as a senior…Chose Utah over Utah State.						
Koliniasi Leota	DE	6-4	245	✪✪✪	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Chose Utah over Colorado, FIU, Hawaii, Kansas State, Oregon State and Utah State… Enrolled at Utah in January.						
Zach Lindsay	OL	6-7	327	✪✪✪	Kaysville, UT	Davis
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Chose Utah over BYU.						
Carlos Lozano	OL	6-6	385	✪✪✪	Monterey Park, CA	East Los Angeles College
Rated as the nation's No. 50 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose Utah over Kansas, Kansas State, UCLA, Utah State and Washington State.						
Hiva Lutui	OL	6-2	277	✪✪✪	Euless, TX	Trinity
Rated as the No. 81 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 31 offensive guard.						
Alphonso Marsh	DB	6-2	183	✪✪✪	Compton, CA	Dominguez
Rated as the No. 65 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 41 cornerback.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Delshawn McClellon	WR	5-9	165	✪✪✪	Cerritos, CA	Gahr
Had 66 receptions for 1,049 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Utah over Arizona State and Idaho.						
Moana Ofahengaue	LB	6-3	205	✪✪✪	Lehi, UT	Westlake
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 40 outside linebacker.						
Tenny Palepoi	DT	6-2	295	✪✪✪	Ephraim, UT	Snow College
Had 49 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and two sacks in 2011…Chose Utah over BYU, Utah State and Washington.						
Reginald Porter	ATH	5-11	202	✪✪✪	Amite, LA	Amite
Three-time all-state selection…Had 46 tackles and six interceptions as a senior… Chose Utah over Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe.						
Nua Poteki	OL	6-5	310	✪✪	Sandy, UT	Brighton
Also lettered in basketball and wrestling in high school…Plans to serve a church mission before joining the Utes.						
Jeremiah Poutasi	OL	6-5	322	✪✪✪✪	Las Vegas, NV	Desert Pines
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Nevada…Rated as the nation's No. 10 offensive guard…Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Marc Pouvave	OL	6-4	336	✪✪✪	Chula Vista, CA	Southwestern C.C.
Two-time first-team all-conference selection…Chose Utah over San Diego State and UTSA.						
Visesio Salt	DT	6-3	340	✪✪✪✪	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 10 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Chose Utah over Cal, Florida, Oregon State and others.						
Pasoni Tasini	DE	6-4	245	✪✪	Wailuku, HI	Baldwin
Also participated in basketball, track and volleyball…Plans to serve a church mission before joining the Utes.						
Justin Thomas	DB	5-9	170	✪✪✪✪	Orange, TX	West Orange-Stark
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 31 prospect in Texas…Rated as the nation's No. 20 cornerback.						
Sione Tupouata	DE	6-4	255	✪✪✪	Ephraim, UT	Snow College
Originally signed with Utah in 2010…Had 55 tackles, eight tackles for loss and six sacks in 2010.						
Vaha Vainuku	DT	6-3	295	✪✪✪	Salt Lake City, UT	East
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Utah by Rivals.com…Chose Utah over Washington State.						
Travis Wilson	QB	6-6	204	✪✪✪	San Clemente, CA	San Clemente
Rated as the No. 41 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 11 pro-style quarterback….Threw for 2,289 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior.						
Kelvin York	RB	5-11	225	✪✪✪✪	Fullerton, CA	Fullerton C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 9 junior college prospect by Rivals.com …Enrolled at Utah in January.						

A LOOK AT THE UTES

RESULTS

8-5, 4-5

W	MONTANA STATE	27-10
L	at USC	14-23
W	at BYU	54-10
L	WASHINGTON	14-31
L	ARIZONA STATE	14-35
W	at Pittsburgh	26-14
L	at California	10-34
W	OREGON STATE	27-8
W	at Arizona	34-21
W	UCLA	31-6
W	at Washington State (OT)	30-27
L	COLORADO	14-17
	Sun Bowl	
W	vs. Georgia Tech (OT)	30-27

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
J. Hays	11	120	214	8	56.1	1459	12
J. Wynn	4	66	116	2	56.9	727	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. White	13	316	1519	4.8	15	62	116.8
R. Dunn	13	15	173	11.5	0	51	13.3
T. Vakapuna	11	31	104	3.4	1	14	9.5

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
D. Christopher	11	42	663	15.8	5	65	60.3
D. Anderson	13	23	355	15.4	3	59	27.3
D. Rogers	6	22	160	7.3	2	17	26.7

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Walker 118, M. Martinez 87, B. Blechen 78
Tackles for loss: D. Shelby 10, T. Reilly 9, S. Lotulelei 9
Sacks: D. Shelby 5, T. Reilly 5, T. Finau 3, J. Kruger 3
Interceptions: C. Black 4, B. Blechen 3, M. Lee 3

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Aug. 30	NORTHERN COLORADO	0-11
Sept. 7	at Utah State	7-6
Sept. 15	BYU	10-3
Sept. 22	at Arizona State	6-7
Oct. 4	USC	10-2
Oct. 13	at UCLA	6-8
Oct. 20	at Oregon State	3-9
Oct. 27	CALIFORNIA	7-6
Nov. 3	WASHINGTON STATE	4-8
Nov. 10	at Washington	7-6
Nov. 17	ARIZONA	4-8
Nov. 23	at Colorado	3-10

PLAYER PROFILE

Star Lotulelei
Photo by Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

Star and Draft Stock Rising For Lotulelei

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham acknowledges it has been a while since the Utes brought back a player as talented as Star Lotulelei. The most recent comparison Whittingham could recall was in 1994 when another heralded defensive lineman — Luther Elliss — came back for his senior season.

Elliss went on to become a consensus first-team All-American and the Western Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He was drafted 20th overall in the first round by the Detroit Lions and appeared in two Pro Bowls.

Whittingham predicts big things for Lotulelei as well.

"No doubt about it," Whittingham said. "There is no doubt that he is a special player."

Lotulelei has already made quite an impression. The 6-4, 325-pound tackle won the Morris Trophy last season as the Pac-12's top defensive lineman. He also netted first-team all-conference recognition and lineman MVP honors in the Sun Bowl.

"Star is a defensive coordinator's dream. He's a guy that commands and demands double teams, triple teams," Whittingham said. "He does so much to disrupt an offense and distort the running game in particular. He's just a valuable commodity."

So valuable that many prognosticators predict Lotulelei will be among the top picks in the 2013 NFL Draft. Lotulelei's professional career could have started this year, but he opted to return to school in order to earn his degree — good news for the Utes and bad news for opposing offenses.

"He has a huge impact," said defensive coordinator Kalani Sitake.

Lotulelei draws a lot of attention — on and off the football field. It's the latter, however, that he shies away from.

"Star just hates being in the spotlight," Sitake said. "He doesn't like to be the guy that's always being interviewed and being the guy that receives a lot of attention."

Lotulelei is part of a defensive line that Whittingham considers to be the best in the Pac-12. The other projected starters are junior end Joe Kruger, senior tackle Dave Kruger and sophomore end Nate Fakahafua.

Despite being double-teamed much of the time, Lotulelei made 44 tackles last season — including nine tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks.

Lotulelei's humble approach is what Sitake appreciates most, noting it makes him a great teammate. Sitake is also impressed with the example Lotulelei sets in the weight room.

"He is never going to be happy with where he's at," Sitake said. "He's a guy who is always going to work harder."

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB John White IV

All things considered, Utah probably has co-MVPs in White and defensive tackle Star Lotulelei. ... White, however, carried an extraordinary load for the Utes last season. The junior college transfer proved to be quite a workhorse while breaking the school record for single-season rushing yardage. ... White's 1,519 yards accounted for 84.9 percent of Utah's production on the ground. The Sun Bowl MVP had all but one of the team's 16 rushing touchdowns; his 316 carries accounted for 66.2 percent of the Utes' rushing attempts.

EMERGING STAR

WR Dres Anderson

Anderson played in all 13 games as a redshirt freshman, finishing second on the team with 23 catches. Anderson averaged 15.4 yards per reception and scored three touchdowns. ... Has speed (4.4 in the 40) and size (6-1). ... Had a 48-yard touchdown catch in Utah's spring game. ... Earned honorable mention all-academic recognition from the Pac-12. ... Had three catches for a career-high 81 yards vs. BYU.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Travis Wilson

Enrolled early and made an immediate impact in spring ball — earning a spot on the depth chart behind projected starter Jordan Wynn. ... Combines good size (6-6) with a strong arm. Set records at San Clemente (Calif.) High School for career passing yards (4,320) and total offense (5,244 yards). Passed for 36 touchdowns and ran for 13 in high school. ... Versatile athlete is also skilled at beach volleyball and surfing.

back in the fold, special teams are another area of strength for the Utes. As such, Whittingham acknowledged it's something they "feel very good about."

Senior Coleman Petersen is one of the top kickers in the Pac-12. He made 18 field goals last season, connecting on 72 percent of his attempts.

Veterans round out the rest of Utah's kicking game. Punter Sean Sellwood and long snapper Patrick Greene have seen extensive action over the past three seasons. Junior Nick Marsh is back to handle kickoff duties. He's also the backup at placekicker and punter.

DeVonte Christopher and Reggie Dunn are experienced return specialists, while Charles Henderson and Griff McNabb are expected to handle punt returns once again.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Utah's hopes of winning the Pac-12's South Division title likely will rest on an Oct. 4 date at home against preseason favorite USC.

The Utes have a reasonable shot of entering the game with a 4-0 record. They face Northern Colorado, Utah State and BYU in non-conference games before opening Pac-12 play at Arizona State. Then comes a bye week, giving Utah extra time to prepare for the Trojans.

After facing USC, the Utes travel to UCLA and Oregon State before returning home for games against California and Washington State. A challenging test at Washington on Nov. 10 is followed by a home game against Arizona and the regular-season finale at Colorado.

The USC game could set the tone — good or bad — for the rest of the season.

— Dirk Facer

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

For more coverage of the Huskies, visit washington.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Eric Kiesau | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Justin Wilcox** | **STADIUM: Husky Stadium: 72,500**

AT A GLANCE

2011:
7-6, 5-4 Pac-12 (3rd, North)

COACH:
Steve Sarkisian — At Washington and overall: 19-19, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
12; 6 offense, 6 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Keith Price, WR Kasen Williams, TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins, DE Josh Shirley, CB Desmond Trufant, S Sean Parker

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
Price is one of the best quarterbacks in the Pac-12, if not the nation. Williams and Seferian-Jenkins are elite young talents. The secondary has a lot of experience and should be vastly improved. The Huskies also appear to have improved speed on the perimeter of the defense.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
UW must replace significant skill players on offense, notably TB Chris Polk. The offensive line was an issue throughout the spring and doesn't have much depth. The defense was among the nation's worst a year ago, and changes in coaching and scheme might take a while to make a difference.

KEY LOSSES:
RB Chris Polk, WR Jermaine Kearse, WR Devin Aguilar, LT Senio Kelemete, RG Colin Porter, DT Alameda Ta'amu, LB Cort Dennison

OVERVIEW:
Sarkisian has brought the Huskies back to respectability, posting 7-6 records and bowl games in each of the past two years. The task for Sarkisian is to take the next step and compete for the Pac-12 North title with Oregon and Stanford. The offense should be good enough to hold its own against most teams; the question is how quickly the defense can catch up.

High-scoring Huskies Look for Help on Defense

It didn't take coach Steve Sarkisian long after the 2011 season to try to fix UW's biggest problem — its irritatingly leaky defense. Less than 48 hours after a wild 67-56 Alamo Bowl loss to Baylor, Sarkisian fired defensive coordinator Nick Holt and two other defensive coaches.

He almost as quickly hired fast-rising Justin Wilcox from Tennessee to run the defense.

Wilcox, who was the defensive coordinator at Boise State from 2006-09 before spending the past two seasons at Tennessee, has a tall order rebuilding a defense that allowed the most points in school history (467) and loses three key players from the front seven.

He plans to move UW to more of a 3-4 scheme (though still with lots of 4-3 sets), in part because it's what he prefers, but also because he says it favors his current personnel. As the Baylor game showed last year, the Huskies were out of their league defensively when playing against elite teams — UW also allowed 65 points to Stanford, 51 to Nebraska and 40 to USC.

The offense, meanwhile, was better than advertised, due largely to the surprising play of quarterback Keith Price. In his first year as a starter, he set numerous school passing records, notably throwing for 33 touchdown passes.

But while Price returns for his junior year, the Huskies lost their top two receivers — Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar — and running back Chris Polk, who despite leaving for the NFL a year early finished No. 2 on the school's all-time rushing list.

Still, the general feeling on Montlake is that the offense should be good enough to hold its own against just about anyone on the schedule. The question is how quickly the defense can catch up.

Sarkisian is 19-19 in three seasons. That mark shows unmistakable progress from the 0-12 mess he inherited from the 2008 season. But .500 won't cut it moving forward.

"There's a little bit, still, of a bad taste in their mouth from the bowl game, which is not a bad thing," Sarkisian said. "There's a lot to prove right now in our building."

OFFENSE

Quarterback Keith Price was a revelation last season, with his accuracy and ability to make plays running the ball as a first-year starter. He set a UW record with a 66.9 completion percentage, despite playing most of the year with injuries to both knees.

Price's supporting cast won't be as strong without running back Chris Polk and receivers Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar.

"Those guys have scored a lot of touchdowns for us the last three years," Sarkisian said. "Now who are going to be those guys?"

Wide receiver Kasen Williams and tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins will take over the pass-catching production. Each had six touchdowns as true freshmen after arriving as five-star recruits, with Williams hauling in 36 catches and Seferian-Jenkins 41.

Other receivers who could fill the gaps include seniors James Johnson and Cody Bruns, but both have struggled to stay healthy.

Sophomore tight end Michael Hartvigson also had a solid spring, leading Sarkisian to say the Huskies could use a lot of multiple tight-end sets in 2012.

Jesse Callier and Bishop Sankey lead the committee to replace Polk. The two can make plays outside the tackles, but they must prove whether they can duplicate Polk's ability to get tough yards through the middle.

The biggest question is the line, with its unproven depth.

Left tackle Senio Kelemete, a three-year starter, was lost to graduation; starting guard Colin Porter — arguably the most physically gifted UW lineman — had to give up football (shoulder); another starting

Keith Price
Photo by John Williamson

HUSKIES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
48	Jonathan Amosa	FB	5-11	239	Sr.	Seattle
70	James Atoe	OL	6-6	332	So.	The Dalles, OR
36	Zach Beebe	S	6-1	224	So.	Sultan
6	Derrick Brown	QB	6-3	230	Fr.	Winchester, CA
7	Cody Bruns	WR	5-11	180	Sr.	Prosser
24	Jesse Callier	TB	5-10	203	Jr.	Downey, CA
19	DiAndre Campbell	WR	6-1	197	So.	Oakland, CA
27	William Chandler	WR	6-0	192	Jr.	Sammamish
76	Dexter Charles	OL	6-4	287	Fr.	Camano Island
32	Deontae Cooper	TB	6-0	197	So.	Perris, CA
91	Connor Cree	DE	6-4	235	Fr.	Sammamish
11	Talia Crichton	DE	6-3	252	Sr.	Lakewood, CA
78	Mike Criste	OL	6-5	282	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
62	Ross Dolbec	OL	6-6	296	Fr.	Orinda, CA
18	Gregory Ducre	CB	5-10	180	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
92	Jacob Dunn	PK	6-0	186	Fr.	Ferndale
42	Ken Egu	S	5-10	185	So.	San Francisco, CA
41	Travis Feeney	S	6-4	205	Fr.	Richmond, CA
29	Nate Fellner	S	6-1	218	Sr.	Fresno, CA
95	Jarett Finau	DE	6-2	260	Fr.	Kirkland
37	Princeton Fuimaono	LB	6-1	215	Jr.	Long Beach, CA
53	Garret Gilliland	LB	6-0	221	Jr.	Anaheim, CA
20	Justin Glenn	S	5-11	209	Sr.	Mukilteo
26	Anthony Gobern	CB	5-11	192	Sr.	Fair Oaks, CA
16	Marvin Hall	WR	5-10	176	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
84	Michael Hartvigson	TE	6-6	250	So.	Bothell
72	Micah Hatchie	OL	6-5	299	So.	Haleiwa, HI
34	K.C. Herren	S	6-0	207	So.	Auburn
93	Andrew Hudson	DE	6-3	240	So.	Redlands, CA
80	Evan Hudson	TE	6-6	256	So.	Bothell
94	Mihai Ion	PK	6-5	187	So.	Newcastle
52	Hau'oli Jamora	DE	6-3	256	So.	Laie, HI
3	James Johnson	WR	6-1	198	Sr.	Valley Center, CA
11	Jamaal Jones	WR	6-2	185	Fr.	Spanaway
58	Jamaal Kearse	LB	6-2	223	So.	Lakewood
56	Alec Kimble	LB	6-3	227	So.	Sammamish
75	Erik Kohler	OL	6-5	296	Jr.	Camarillo, CA
97	Lawrence Lagafuaina	DT	6-0	325	So.	Aiea, HI
47	Scott Lawyer	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	San Jose, CA
27	Adam Long	CB	5-10	176	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
40	Matthew Lyons	LB	6-2	206	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
31	Ryan McDaniel	LB/RB	6-0	225	Fr.	Torrance, CA
1	Sean Parker	S	5-10	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
43	Cooper Pelluer	LB	6-3	230	Jr.	Sammamish
12	Joshua Perkins	WR	6-3	213	Fr.	Cerritos, CA
21	Marcus Peters	CB	5-11	195	Fr.	Oakland, CA
34	Dezden Petty	TB/FB	5-11	208	Fr.	Carson, CA
79	Colin Porter	OL	6-4	299	Jr.	Bothell
55	Sione Potoa'e	DT	6-2	280	Jr.	Fort Lewis
17	Keith Price	QB	6-1	195	Jr.	Compton, CA
59	Ben Riva	OL	6-6	305	So.	Seattle
35	Cole Sager	TB	5-10	212	Sr.	Burlington
5	James Sample	S	6-2	202	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
25	Bishop Sankey	TB	5-10	197	So.	Spokane
73	Drew Schaefer	C	6-4	287	Sr.	Sammamish
77	Drew Schultz	DL	6-1	261	So.	Olympia
88	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	TE	6-6	258	So.	Fox Island
13	Will Shamburger	S	6-0	193	Jr.	Compton, CA
71	Danny Shelton	DT	6-1	323	So.	Auburn
22	Josh Shirley	DE	6-3	235	So.	Fontana, CA
4	Antavius Sims	ATH	6-2	205	Jr.	Americus, GA
8	Kevin Smith	WR	6-0	209	Jr.	Compton, CA
13	Wil Smith	QB	6-2	194	Fr.	Los Altos, CA
14	Taz Stevenson	LB	6-1	215	Jr.	Mililani, HI
64	Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	So.	Pasadena, CA
61	Ben Teichman	OL	5-11	274	Fr.	Danville, CA
10	John Timu	LB	6-1	236	So.	Long Beach, CA
98	Semisi Tokolahi	DT	6-2	339	Sr.	Hilo, HI
6	Desmond Trufant	CB	6-0	185	Sr.	Tacoma
65	Siosifa Tufunga	OL	6-2	313	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
90	Taniela Tupou	DL	6-1	275	Fr.	Marysville
50	Thomas Tutogi	LB	6-1	255	Jr.	Chula Vista, CA
14	Thomas Vincent	QB	6-0	197	Fr.	Seattle
45	Corey Waller	DE	6-0	223	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
32	Tre Watson	CB	5-10	180	Jr.	Seattle
2	Kasen Williams	WR	6-2	216	So.	Sammamish
16	Erik Wilson	QB	6-0	194	Jr.	Redondo Beach, CA
29	Willis Wilson	TB	5-9	184	So.	Lakewood
30	Evan Zeger	LB	6-2	221	Fr.	Henderson, NV

NOTEBOOK

The Huskies dominated in-state recruiting in 2011, signing all five of the top Washington recruits, but they landed only one local star in 2012 — quarterback **Jeff Lindquist** of Mercer Island, who turned down Stanford, among others.

Among those UW lost out on were offensive tackle Zach Banner (USC) and guard Josh Garnett (Stanford), both positions of need for the Huskies.

Publicly, UW coach **Steve Sarkisian** shrugged off the losses, saying they might not have been good fits for the Huskies. He also said it illustrated that UW's struggles on the field the past decade means that not every player who grows up in the state aspires to attend Washington.

Landing the top in-state recruits, however, has often been seen as a key to success at UW, and it's a trend the Huskies will have to restart. The bad news is that the 2013 class is not regarded as being as strong.

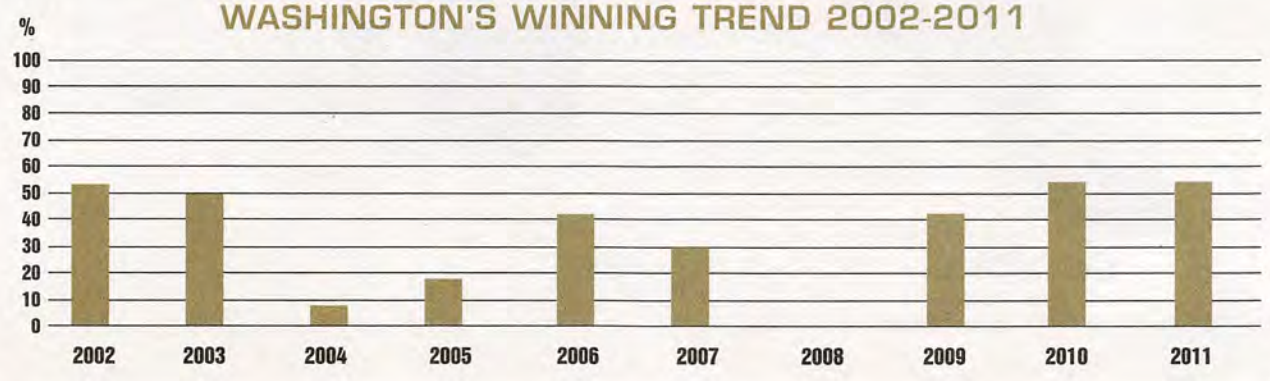
And UW seems assured of not getting the top player in that group, quarterback Max Browne of Skyline High, who in April gave a commitment to sign with USC.

- Washington will play the 2012 season at CenturyLink Field in downtown Seattle — the home of the Seattle Seahawks — while its on-campus facility undergoes a $250 million renovation.

The renovation began after UW played Oregon on Nov. 5 and is expected to be done in time for the 2013 season. The facility will include a football operations building, which will house locker rooms and a weight room, both seen by coaches as a key for recruiting.

- Nick Montana, son of Hall of Famer Joe Montana and a highly touted member of Sarkisian's first full UW recruiting class in 2010, decided in January to transfer and is now at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif. He'll be a third-year sophomore and hopes to transfer to an FBS school to play his final two seasons beginning in 2013.

WASHINGTON'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



guard, Colin Tanigawa, is recovering from a torn ACL suffered late last season.

UW may be forced to start two tackles with little experience in sophomores Micah Hatchie (left) and Ben Riva (right). Erik Kohler, a starter at right tackle last year, is likely to move to one guard spot. Once Tanigawa returns, he'd likely be the other guard. The one sure thing is senior center Drew Schaefer.

Despite Price's mobility, UW allowed 27 sacks last season, a number that must get lower this year, Sarkisian said.

DEFENSE

Firing defensive coordinator Nick Holt, linebackers coach Mike Cox and safeties coach Jeff Mills ranked among the hardest acts of Sarkisian's career. He was reluctant to go into detail, other than to say the coaching fit "just wasn't right for a variety of reasons."

New defensive coordinator Justin Wilcox spent the spring experimenting with a variety of new 3-4 looks that may be a better fit for UW's personnel and matchups against the Pac-12's spread offenses.

The key is whether the Huskies can get a little faster and play better in space while still matching up against more physical teams, such as Stanford.

"We'll still play four-down principles — it's not like we are playing a true odd (front) every snap," Wilcox said.

"I think anymore you've got to have a little bit of both to make sure you can have an answer for all the different types of offenses you see ... the balancing act is that you have enough, but not too much where your own players are second-guessing themselves."

Regardless of changes in schemes and personality, UW's hopes for improvement also rest largely in getting more production out of a bevy of young players beginning to mature. The Huskies return six starters and just about every key reserve, and coaches showed optimism in the spring about the defensive front and the secondary.

Sophomore Danny Shelton will replace Alameda Ta'amu at tackle after emerging late last season. Sophomore end Josh Shirley may be in more of a standup role this year after making 8.5 sacks. Hau'oli Jamora, who suffered a knee injury early last season, is expected back.

Three starters return in the secondary, led by senior cornerback Desmond Trufant. Wilcox plans for the Huskies to play more aggressively and take more chances in the defensive backfield. Highly touted recruit Shaq Thompson, slated to start out at safety, also joins the mix in the fall and should play immediately.

The biggest concern, as it was last year, is at linebacker. One experiment that gained traction in the spring involved using converted safety Nate Fellner outside, and moving John Timu, a starter last year on the outside, to the middle.

Austin Seferian-Jenkins
Photo by Dave Sizer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 154.3 ypg rushing (6th in Pac-12/63rd NCAA), 255.5 passing (7th/35th), 409.9 total offense (7th/38th), 33.4 ppg (4th/25th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Keith Price*	Jr.	Leader of team after passing for 3,063 yards, 33 TDs in '11.	Derrick Brown, Fr.
RB	Jesse Callier	Jr.	Big shoes to fill taking over for Chris Polk.	Bishop Sankey, So.
WR	Kasen Williams	So.	Hugely gifted, but needs to become the go-to receiver.	DiAndre Campbell, So.
WR	James Johnson	Sr.	Could be senior breakout star if he can avoid injury bug.	Marvin Hall, Fr.
WR	Cody Bruns	Sr.	Redshirted last year to add experience to team this season.	Josh Perkins, Fr.
TE	Austin Seferian-Jenkins*	So.	The potential All-American had 41 catches, six TDs in '11.	Michael Hartvigson, So.*
LT	Micah Hatchie	So.	Stepping in for Senio Kelemete will be a challenge.	Dexter Charles, Fr.
LG	Colin Tanigawa*	So.	Coming off ACL injury; missed the spring.	Dexter Charles, Fr.
C	Drew Schaefer*	Sr.	The three-year starter is undisputed leader of the line.	Mike Criste, So.
RG	Erik Kohler*	Jr.	UW needs him to live up to lofty high school credentials.	James Atoe, So.
RT	Ben Riva	So.	Untested, but likely to take over here if Kohler stays at OG.	Erik Kohler, Jr.
K	Travis Coons	Jr.	The JC transfer replaces the departed Erik Folk.	Korey Durkee, Fr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 168.7 ypg rushing (9th in Pac-12/76th NCAA), 284.6 passing (11th/116th), 453.3 total defense (11th/106th), 35.9 ppg (11th/108th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Josh Shirley*	So.	Had 8.5 sacks last year; has to prove he can defend run.	Corey Waller, Fr.
DT	Andrew Hudson	So.	On the small side for the inside, but quick and strong.	Connor Cree, Fr.
NT	Danny Shelton	So.	Huskies need mammoth tackle to lock down the middle.	Sione Potoa'e, Jr.
DE	Hau'oli Jamora	So.	Coming off ACL injury, expected to be ready for season.	Talia Crichton, Sr.
LB	Nate Fellner	Sr.	Moved from safety in the spring and played well.	Evan Zeger, Fr.
LB	John Timu*	So.	Played outside last year; has bulked up for the middle.	Thomas Tutogi, Jr.
LB	Princeton Fuimaono*	Jr.	This spot is still mostly wide open entering the fall.	Thomas Tutogi, Jr.
CB	Desmond Trufant*	Sr.	Got burned at times in 2011; also made a lot of big plays.	Tre Watson, Jr.
CB	Greg Ducre	Jr.	Showed improvement in spring after some struggles in '11.	Marcus Peters, Fr.
SS	Sean Parker*	Jr.	Has emerged as a leader after being UW's top recruit of '10.	Shaq Thompson, Fr.
FS	Justin Glenn*	Sr.	UW likes steadiness of fifth-year senior; finally healthy.	Will Shamburger, Jr.
P	Korey Durkee	Fr.	Strong-legged 2012 signee is expected to start immediately.	Travis Coons, Jr.

*Returning Starter

HUSKIES RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Kalei Auelua	DE	6-3	240	★★	Honolulu, HI	St. Louis
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Boise State, Colorado, Hawaii, UCLA and Utah.						
Josh Banks	DT	6-3	283	★★★	Stockton, CA	San Joaquin Delta C.C.
Chose Washington over Fresno State, Iowa State, Nevada, Oregon State and Washington State.						
Brandon Beaver	DB	6-1	176	★★★★	Compton, CA	Dominguez
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 21 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 12 cornerback…Participated in the Cal State All-Star Game…Had seven interceptions as a senior.						
Shane Brostek	OL	6-3	300	★★	Kamuela, HI	Hawaii Prep
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Colorado.						
Travis Coons	K	6-2	195	★★	Walnut, CA	Mt. San Antonio C.C.
Late addition to the Washington class…Chose the Huskies over San Diego State.						
Nathan Dean	OL	6-5	275	★★★	Kirkland, WA	Juanita
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 64 offensive tackle.						
Korey Durkee	K	6-4	205	★★	Gig Harbor, WA	Gig Harbor
Rated as the nation's No. 14 kicker by Rivals.com…Averaged 46 yards per punt as a senior.						
Jake Eldrenkamp	OL	6-5	285	★★★	Medina, WA	Bellevue
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Washington by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Brown, Oregon State, Purdue, Utah, Washington State and Yale.						
Cory English	OL	6-3	275	★★★	Auburn, WA	Auburn
Earned all-state honors…Chose Washington over Idaho, Oregon State and Washington State.						
Taylor Hindy	OL	6-4	295	★★	West Hills, CA	Chaminade
Three-time all-league selection…Participated in the *L.A. Daily News* All-Star Game.						
Jeff Lindquist	QB	6-3	225	★★★★	Mercer Island, WA	Mercer Island
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Washington…Rated as the nation's No. 7 dual-threat quarterback.						
Cory Littleton	DE	6-4	215	★★★	Spring Valley, CA	Mount Miguel
Chose Washington over Colorado State, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico State, San Diego State, San Jose State, UCLA, UNLV and Washington State.						
Ryan McDaniel	RB	6-0	226	★★★	Torrance, CA	North
Rated as the No. 66 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 35 running back.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jaydon Mickens	ATH	5-8	170	★★★★	Los Angeles, CA	Dorsey
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 20 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 11 athlete…Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.						
Cyler Miles	QB	6-4	220	★★★★	Denver, CO	Mullen
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Colorado…Rated as the nation's No. 2 dual-threat quarterback…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Blake Rodgers	LB	6-2	220	★★★	Las Flores, CA	Tesoro
Had 80 tackles, seven sacks and two interceptions as a junior…Chose Washington over Ari Force.						
Kendyl Taylor	ATH	5-11	190	★★★	Chandler, AZ	Hamilton
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Arizona by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 25 athlete.						
Shaq Thompson	DB	6-2	210	★★★★★	Sacramento, CA	Grant
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 1 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 1 safety…Participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Damion Turpin	DE	6-3	225	★★★	Compton, CA	Dominguez
Chose Washington over Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, Duke, Hawaii, New Mexico, New Mexico State, Oregon State, SMU, UCLA, Utah and Washington State.						
Pio Vatuvei	DE	6-2	265	★★★★	Patterson, CA	Patterson
Rivals250 selection…Rated as the No. 22 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 11 weakside defensive end.						
Cleveland Wallace	DB	6-1	170	★★★	San Jose, CA	Oak Grove
Rated as the No. 84 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Oregon State.						
Darien Washington	DB	5-11	175	★★★	Orange, CA	Lutheran
Rated as the No. 81 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 60 cornerback.						
Dwayne Washington	WR	6-1	185	★★★	Cerritos, CA	Gahr
Had 66 receptions for 1,338 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior…Chose Washington over Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Utah.						
Erich Wilson	ATH	6-1	184	★★★	San Mateo, CA	Junipero Serra
Rated as the nation's No. 63 athlete by Rivals.com…Chose Washington over Arizona State, Colorado, Colorado State, Idaho, Indiana and San Jose State.						
Psalm Wooching	RB	6-3	210	★★★	Kailua Kona, HI	Kealakehe
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 49 running back.						

A LOOK AT THE HUSKIES

RESULTS

7-6, 5-4

W	EASTERN WASHINGTON	30-27
W	HAWAII	40-32
L	at Nebraska	38-51
W	CALIFORNIA	31-23
W	at Utah	31-14
W	COLORADO	52-24
L	at Stanford	21-65
W	ARIZONA	42-31
L	OREGON	17-34
L	at USC	17-40
L	at Oregon State	21-38
W	WASHINGTON STATE	38-21
	Alamo Bowl	
L	vs. Baylor	56-67

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
K. Price	13	242	362	11	66.9	3063	33
N. Montana	6	24	42	2	57.1	226	3

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Polk	13	293	1488	5.1	12	61	114.5
J. Callier	13	47	260	5.5	1	30	20.0
B. Sankey	12	28	187	6.7	1	33	15.6

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Kearse	13	47	699	14.9	7	80	53.8
D. Aguilar	13	41	611	14.9	6	59	47.0
A. Seferian-Jenkins	13	41	538	13.1	6	47	41.4

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Dennison 128, S. Parker 91, D. Trufant 64
Tackles for loss: J. Shirley 12, P. Fuimaono 8.5, C. Dennison 8
Sacks: J. Shirley 8.5, A. Ta'amu 3.5, A. Hudson 3.5
Interceptions: S. Parker 4, D. Trufant 2, four tied with 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Sept. 1	SAN DIEGO STATE	8-5
Sept. 8	at LSU	13-1
Sept. 15	PORTLAND STATE	7-4
Sept. 27	STANFORD	11-2
Oct. 6	at Oregon	12-2
Oct. 13	USC	10-2
Oct. 20	at Arizona	4-8
Oct. 27	OREGON STATE	3-9
Nov. 2	at California	7-6
Nov. 10	UTAH	8-5
Nov. 17	at Colorado	3-10
Nov. 23	at Washington State	4-8

PLAYER PROFILE

Kasen Williams
Photo by Joe Robbins

Wideout Leaps at Chance to Improve

How promising is Washington receiver Kasen Williams? He wears a number that's already been retired.

When Williams committed to Washington before his senior season at nearby Skyline High School, he wanted wear a number — No. 2 — that had technically been retired. Williams' father, Aaron, had worn that number for UW from 1979-82; it had been retired for Chuck Carroll, an All-American in 1928.

Given the family history with the number, Williams was allowed to put it to work once again.

By the end of the 2011 season, the 6-2, 216-pounder showed flashes of the talent that won him a bevy of high school awards, including being selected the *Parade* Player of the Year.

Williams caught 36 passes for 427 yards and six touchdowns last season, and he turned in UW's highlight of the season in the Apple Cup, when he leaped over WSU cornerback Nolan Washington during a touchdown drive. Williams scored twice in the first half as UW beat the Cougars to secure an Alamo Bowl berth.

Coach Steve Sarkisian called the season a good start to Williams' career, adding that one of the keys to the 2012 season is, "Can Kasen take the next step?"

Indeed, the Huskies need the sophomore to shoulder a bigger burden of the receiving chores after losing Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar, who finished second and seventh, respectively, in UW history in receiving.

Williams admits there's room for improvement. He skipped track this spring — he was a multi-time state title winner in the high jump, long jump and triple jump at Skyline — to focus on football.

Williams met with Sarkisian shortly before spring ball.

"He said my freshman year I looked good, but that I can do better," Williams said.

"I need to fulfill what he's looking for. And I think I could have done a lot better last season, too. To go with all this hard work, I need more film studying and being in the weight room more and just showing more dedication to the program."

Williams said he put on about 10 pounds to become an even more physical presence — he lamented losing a battle for a pass in the end zone at Oregon State that turned into a critical late turnover in a Husky loss.

"And the best thing about it is I feel faster to go with that weight," Williams said.

Able now, he hopes, to reach those lofty expectations.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Keith Price

Entered the 2011 season as one of UW's biggest question marks. But after a game or so, it was apparent he could replace Jake Locker and, in some ways, was a better fit in Steve Sarkisian's offense. ... A superbly accurate passer who has good mobility and stays calm under pressure. ... He set school records last season in touchdown passes (33) and completion percentage (66.9) while battling injuries to both knees, among several nagging ailments.

EMERGING STAR

TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins

Immensely gifted player who quickly revived UW's tight end tradition last season with 41 catches and 538 yards, the latter the second-most for any true freshman in school history at any receiving position. ... Also played forward for the UW basketball team, becoming a key contributor off the bench for a team that won the Pac-12 regular-season title. ... Needs to work on consistency and blocking, but he's on his way to becoming one of the nation's elite at his position.

TOP NEWCOMER

DB Shaq Thompson

Regarded by many as the No. 1 safety prospect in the country last year. ... The brother of former Cal standout Syd'Quan Thompson and a Sacramento, Calif., native, Thompson was considered for months as a lock to follow his brother to the Bears. He even gave a commitment to Cal during the U.S. Army All-American Game. When UW hired three assistants with Cal ties, Thompson reconsidered and ultimately signed with the Huskies. ... He can play anywhere in the secondary and should contribute immediately.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Huskies are depending on newcomers for each of their kicking spots after having experienced punters and kickers a year ago.

Most critical is replacing placekicker Erik Folk, a three-year starter who hit 74 percent of his career field-goal attempts and earned a reputation for being clutch. Junior college transfer Travis Coons is expected to fill his shoes. True freshman Korey Durkee is expected to take over the punting duties.

The Huskies could be without top kickoff returner Kevin Smith (knee) when the season opens. Running backs Jesse Callier and Bishop Sankey will have chances as playmakers in this area, as well as in the backfield. Receiver Kasen Williams returns as the punt returner.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Few teams in the country will have a tougher first half of the season than UW, which will play LSU, Stanford, Oregon and USC in its first six games. And the back half of the schedule is deceptively tough with four of six on the road, including Friday games at Cal and rival WSU in what should be fevered atmospheres.

The Huskies are trying to perfect the A-B-C non-conference approach to scheduling, meaning one elite opponent (LSU), one that should be a solid test but ultimately winnable (San Diego State), and one that's basically a guaranteed victory (lower-division Portland State).

— Bob Condotta

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

For more coverage of the Cougars, visit washingtonstate.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Leach | **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Mike Breske | **STADIUM:** Martin Stadium: 35,117

AT A GLANCE

2011:
4-8, 2-7 Pac-12 (6th, North)

COACH:
Mike Leach — At WSU: 1st year; overall: 84-43, 10 years

RETURNING STARTERS:
15; 7 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
QB Jeff Tuel, WR Marquess Wilson, WR Dominique Williams, LT John Fullington, DT Anthony Laurenzi, LB/DE Travis Long, S Deone Bucannon

PRIMARY STRENGTHS:
There's a talented senior quarterback and lots of capable receivers, but let's be frank — just as significant is the Leach aura, if you will. The Cougars will score; his history guarantees it. The secondary has depth and playmakers, and the Cougs should provide some surprises with a new 3-4 look.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:
An average-at-best offensive line has to keep Tuel upright — and healthy — in a wide-splits scheme with inviting pass-rush lanes. There's a severe lack of experienced linebackers, an unproven defensive line and Long is learning a new hybrid end/linebacker position. Figure on a lot of shootouts.

KEY LOSSES:
WR Jared Karstetter, WR Isiah Barton, OT David Gonzales, OG B.J. Guerra, LB Alex Hoffman-Ellis, LB C.J. Mizell

OVERVIEW:
Even with small gains at the end of the Paul Wulff era, this program needed a makeover — and got one with the bombshell hiring of Leach. The anticipation in Pullman is unprecedented, but teaching the Cougs how to win and not just compete is Leach's first job. WSU could take another baby step into a minor bowl, and that should be expectation enough.

Brash with Flash: Leach Gives Cougars a Makeover

Urban Meyer's back, Bobby Petrino's out and Joe Paterno passed away, dogged by a disgrace at his school. College football was full of coaching upheaval after the 2011 season — and yet relative to its humble status, no school rocked change quite the way Washington State did.

Mike Leach is in the game again. In Pullman, Wash., no less.

The bold-and-quirky coach who made Texas Tech football relevant — before allegations he mistreated the son of former ESPN analyst Craig James brought it crashing down — will try to do the same at one of college football's most challenging outposts.

The windfall from the Pac-12's new television package allowed Washington State athletic director Bill Moos to be just as bold as Leach: The initial outlay is in excess of $11 million over five years, champagne salary unheard of at beer-budget Wazzu. But it's money the Cougars had to spend after death spiraling to a 9-40 record under Paul Wulff, whose rebuilding efforts simply took too long.

Hiring Leach reaped benefits before the Cougars even took a snap. By the end of May, WSU had added 2,000 new season-ticket holders and 1,200 new donors since the coach was introduced.

Leach will benefit from some of Wulff's groundwork. In other respects, he'll start from scratch. But he sees no reason his pirate act can't play to just as much success at WSU as it did at Tech.

"You can win here," he insisted, "and win big, I believe."

With a senior quarterback in Jeff Tuel and a well-stocked receiver corps, Leach certainly has the ingredients for his kind of team. And he'll need them — the Cougars return one of the nation's worst defenses, so shootouts will be the order of the day.

But even if they go down, the Cougs will go down swinging their swords.

OFFENSE

If not for Jeff Tuel's unlucky junior season — he broke a collarbone trying to get a meaningless extra yard in the opener against Idaho State, and appeared in just three games — it's possible WSU would not have hired Leach.

Tuel's absence could easily have been the difference in two games, and that would have put the Cougars in a bowl — and likely saved Paul Wulff's job.

That doesn't mean Leach has just tossed the keys to the senior quarterback.

Backup Connor Halliday, whose passing arm and touch may be superior, didn't take any live snaps in the spring as he continued to recover from a lacerated liver. Leach insisted it would still be a competition come fall, but Tuel is a 60 percent career passer with good feet, and he now has an edge in picking up Leach's progressions.

And there are all sorts of receivers for Leach's brand of fun, led by second-team All-Pac-12 performer Marquess Wilson, whom the new coach spent the spring hectoring for better effort. Dominique Williams, a gifted freshman, got much the same treatment, but they're still likely to be the go-to targets.

The revelation might be Andrei Lintz. Underused by the previous staff at tight end, he thrived in the spring as an inside receiver, earning praise from Leach for his "freakish endurance."

The screen pass is another Leach staple, so running backs with catching ability are prized. Rickey Galvin, last year's rushing leader with 602 yards, and Marcus Mason look to be the leaders in a crowded field.

Although John Fullington is an all-league talent on the left side, the worrisome area is the offensive line, especially after the Cougars' average defensive front spent most of the spring blowing through

Travis Long
Photo by Dave Sizer

COUGARS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
46	John Taylor Altomare	LB/DE	5-11	226	Sr.	Auburn
68	Brent Anderson	OL	6-1	278	So.	Kennewick
71	Matthew Bock	DL	6-2	247	Jr.	Santa Margarita, CA
89	Blair Bomber	WR	5-8	170	So.	Lynden
25	Bennett Bontemps	WR	6-0	198	Jr.	Puyallup
60	Elliott Bosch	OL	6-4	260	Jr.	Spokane
46	Michael Bowlin	K	6-4	210	Jr.	Aliso Viejo, CA
55	Phillip Brandt	LB	6-0	219	Sr.	Fresno, CA
70	Zach Brevick	DL	6-5	238	Jr.	Snoqualmie
23	Leon Brooks	RB	5-7	166	Jr.	Harbor City, CA
8	Jesse Brown	QB	6-2	185	Fr.	Baker City, OR
20	Deone Bucannon	S	6-1	190	Jr.	Fairfield, CA
37	Jared Byers	LB	6-0	232	So.	Pullman
34	Teondray Caldwell	RB	5-8	201	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
4	Anthony Carpenter	S	6-0	191	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
62	Moritz Christ	OL	6-5	310	Fr.	Siegen, Germany
30	Tracy Clark	CB	5-11	186	So.	Pittsburg, CA
90	Justin Clayton	DE	6-4	282	Jr.	Napa, CA
13	Cody Clements	QB	6-1	197	Fr.	Whittier, CA
42	Cyrus Coen	LB	6-0	205	So.	Pearl City, HI
50	Adam Coerper	DE	6-5	252	Sr.	Hood River, OR
96	Xavier Cooper	DE	6-4	278	Fr.	Tacoma
72	Joe Dahl	OL	6-4	257	Fr.	Spokane
97	David Davis	DT	6-2	270	Fr.	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
53	Anthony DeMatteo	LB	5-11	214	So.	Sammamish
65	Alex Den Bleyker	LS	5-10	224	Fr.	Fremont, CA
31	Rahmel Dockery	WR	5-10	170	Fr.	Tacoma
67	Denzell Dotson	OL	6-2	317	Fr.	Peoria, AZ
26	Tyrone Duckett	S	5-11	205	So.	Alameda, CA
17	Henry Eaddy	WR	5-8	163	So.	Orlando, FL
63	Gunnar Eklund	OL	6-7	277	Fr.	Lake Stevens
76	Rico Forbes	OL	6-6	287	Jr.	Houston, TX
77	John Fullington	OL	6-5	290	Jr.	Belfair
49	Andrew Furney	K	5-10	231	Jr.	Burlington
5	Rickey Galvin	RB	5-8	171	So.	Berkeley, CA
33	Max Gama	S	5-10	195	Fr.	La Mirada, CA
4	David Gilbertson	QB	6-1	201	Jr.	Woodinville
64	Matt Goetz	OL	6-4	270	Jr.	Cibolo, TX
32	Brandon Golden	CB	5-11	190	So.	Covina, CA
92	Hamza Griffin	DE	6-3	218	Fr.	Burton
12	Connor Halliday	QB	6-4	179	So.	Spokane
41	Max Hersey	TE	6-3	232	Fr.	Tacoma
94	Steven Hoffart	DT	6-4	273	Sr.	Davis, CA
6	Damante Horton	CB	5-10	174	Jr.	Oakland, CA
55	Wade Jacobson	OL	6-6	306	Sr.	Hollister, CA
58	Zack Johnson	OL	6-4	265	So.	Stanwood
78	Joe Kaleta	OL	6-8	314	So.	Utica, NY
56	Ian Knight	DE	6-2	238	Jr.	Wichita, KS
36	Manuel Lamson	RB	5-11	186	Fr.	Gridley, CA
31	Kyle Lappano	LB	5-11	185	Fr.	Sammamish
38	Corey Laufasa	LB	6-0	245	Sr.	Seattle
61	Anthony Laurenzi	DT	6-3	287	Sr.	Placentia, CA
87	Andrei Lintz	WR	6-5	252	Sr.	Bellingham
22	Casey Locker	S	5-11	198	Jr.	Ferndale
32	Drew Loftus	WR	6-2	184	Fr.	Kennewick
89	Travis Long	DE	6-4	256	Sr.	Spokane
54	Darren Markle	LB	6-1	240	Jr.	Meridian, ID
35	Marcus Mason	RB	5-9	176	So.	Etiwanda, CA
83	Logan Mayes	DE	6-3	218	So.	Eugene, OR
17	Mike McAdie	DB	6-0	187	So.	Kennewick
39	Kyle McCartney	S	6-0	191	Sr.	Edmonds
85	Brett McDonald	WR	5-11	178	Fr.	Silverdale
84	Daniel McDonald	WR	5-11	180	So.	Shoreline
45	Tyler McNannay	K	6-0	170	Fr.	Palouse
50	Taylor Meighen	OL	6-3	284	Sr.	Beaumont, TX
13	Darryl Monroe	LB	6-1	213	Fr.	Orlando, FL
83	Isiah Myers	WR	6-0	172	So.	Orlando, FL
44	Ryan Nungester	WR	5-11	192	Fr.	Spokane
21	Eric Oertel	LB	6-1	197	Jr.	Racine, WI
52	Darryl Paulo	DE	6-2	250	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
25	Mitchell Peterson	S	6-0	196	So.	Spokane
98	Kalafitoni Pole	DT	6-1	292	So.	Union City, CA
47	Tana Pritchard	LB	6-3	201	Fr.	Lakewood
95	Dylan Rabinowitz	DE	6-5	235	Fr.	White Salmon
82	Bobby Ratliff	WR	6-2	194	So.	Etiwanda, CA
78	Eddie Releford	DE	6-1	239	Fr.	Lakewood
85	Jordan Pu'u Robinson	DE	6-4	260	Jr.	Wailuku, HI
69	Jake Rodgers	OL	6-6	295	So.	Spokane
74	Chas Sampson	OL	6-4	303	Sr.	Fayetteville, NC
47	Ryan Saparto	LS	5-11	242	So.	Everett
56	Sam Shirley	OL	6-3	297	Fr.	Kirkland
24	Daniel Simmons	CB	5-10	193	Sr.	Ontario, CA
43	Mansel Simmons	TE	6-4	225	Fr.	Elk Grove, CA
36	Matthew Simmons	S	5-11	195	So.	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
1	Gino Simone	WR	6-0	194	Sr.	Sammamish
35	Travion Smith	CB	5-8	170	Sr.	Long Beach, CA
71	Dan Spitz	OL	6-7	300	Sr.	Spokane
29	Kruger Story	RB	5-10	182	Fr.	Brentwook, CA
45	Chester Su'a	LB	6-1	226	So.	Pearl City, HI
15	Tyree Toomer	S	5-11	199	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
10	Jeff Tuel	QB	6-3	223	Sr.	Fresno, CA
61	Jeff Waldner	OL	6-3	266	So.	Olympia
29	Spencer Waseem	CB	5-9	167	So.	Apopka, FL
2	Nolan Washington	CB	5-11	184	Jr.	Seattle
80	Dominique Williams	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Pomona, CA
18	Kristoff Williams	WR	6-2	206	So.	Antioch, CA
93	Lenard Williams	DE	6-2	250	Sr.	Chesterfield, SC
86	Marquess Wilson	WR	6-4	183	Jr.	Tulare, CA
3	Carl Winston	RB	5-8	200	Sr.	Harbor City, CA

NOTEBOOK

Given **Mike Leach's** price tag of $2.25 million a year, WSU obviously expects a makeover in wins and losses under the new coach.

Leach has already taken care of the makeover in approach and style, evident in the spring when "Friday Night Lights" producer Peter Berg came to Pullman with a camera crew to shadow the coach for a potential cable documentary series.

The media-savvy Leach jetted off to book signings for his autobiography, "Swing Your Sword," and he was more than happy to use the inscriptions to accidentally-on-purpose dart his nemesis, Craig James, from the Texas Tech debacle.

And when drills were over, Leach shot himself a bear that topped seven feet and 350 pounds. Naturally, the hunt in Canada will be shown on the Outdoor Channel.

• The remake of the football program isn't just in coaching and manpower. Even before Leach was brought aboard, athletic director **Bill Moos** launched facility upgrades that will debut a new Martin Stadium press box and 21 pre-sold suites for the home opener against Eastern Washington, at a price tag of $80 million.

Moos' real priority was a new football operations facility on the west end of Martin Stadium, but he needed the revenue-generating part in place first. Cost estimates and a plan are expected to be put before the Board of Regents for a go-ahead during the summer of 2012.

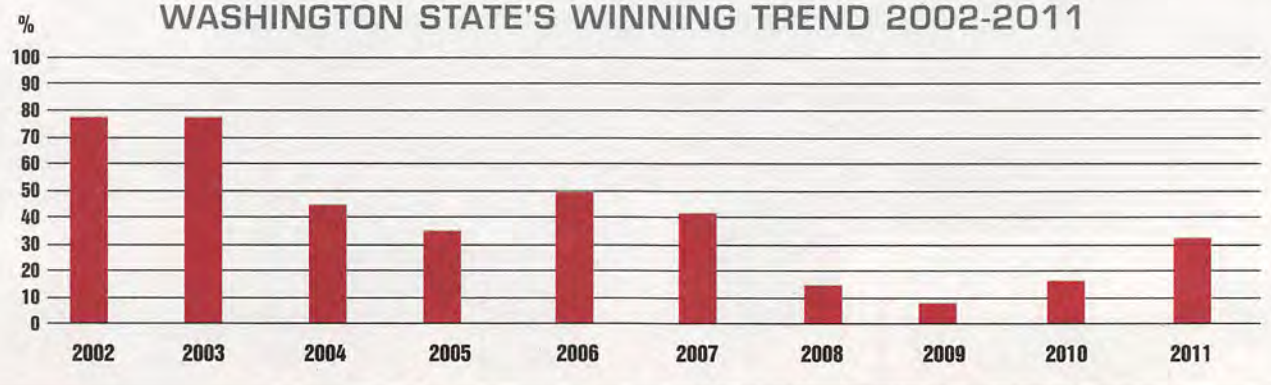
• For a coach with a seemingly easy-going style, Leach revealed himself to be a disciplinary hard-liner. As a result, the Cougars will be woefully underexperienced at linebacker.

C.J. Mizell, a problem player for the previous regime, was dismissed from the program after being arrested at a campus party on allegations of assault and trespassing. Not long afterward, Sekope Kaufusi was bounced following a marijuana bust at his Pullman home.

Charges against Kaufusi were later dropped, and Leach admitted reinstatement was "possible." But the team was placed on notice: drug, theft, assault and domestic violence incidents are likely to be a one-way ticket out of the program.

If the players didn't get the message, Leach emphasized it with guests for the spring's first post-practice huddle: two Pullman police officers.

WASHINGTON STATE'S WINNING TREND 2002-2011



without a lot of resistance.

Missing versatile Wade Jacobson and center Matt Goetz with injuries didn't help, but there seemed to be difficulty adjusting to the wide blocking splits Leach prefers that can open up pass-rush lanes.

"It takes away the edge rush to some extent," said second-team hybrid linebacker Logan Mayes, who had 4.5 sacks in the spring game, "but it also opens up gaps on the inside."

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Mike Breske has the reputation of a risk-taker, and some of that has already been seen.

A team desperately short of experienced linebackers has switched to a 3-4 look, necessitating more bodies. And to get them, Breske has taken the Cougars' most established lineman, Travis Long, and turned him into a defensive end/linebacker hybrid.

Long has started 36 games, more than any teammate, but he'll line up less at end as a senior. He adapted to the linebacker slot as well as can be expected — Logan Mayes sometimes seemed more suited to the position — but Long is a second-team all-league player who needs to be on the field.

Xavier Cooper's development at the other end will go a long way in determining if the Long experiment succeeds, and the Cougars certainly need a more every-play presence in the middle from seniors Anthony Laurenzi and Lenard Williams. Freshman Robert Barber's arrival from Samoa may add some intrigue there.

Leach dismissed starting linebackers C.J. Mizell and Sekope Kaufusi before spring ball, and no graduated Cougar will be missed as much as Alex Hoffman-Ellis. The Cougs scrambled to fill the gaping holes with a number of converted running backs, led by Eric Oertel and Jared Byers.

The best news at linebacker was the spring play of redshirt freshman Darryl Monroe, still recovering from an Achilles' injury. He became a favorite of Breske because of his athleticism and "a nasty mentality." Still, with just four starts, it's Chester Su'a who ranks as the veteran of the bunch, so five incoming freshmen will liven up the mix.

No area of the team is as deep and experienced as the secondary, where the Cougars have a combined 95 career starts.

The standout is strong safety Deone Bucannon, but cornerback Damante Horton was probably the breakthrough player of 2011 with his team-leading four interceptions. Daniel Simmons and Nolan Washington are also capable on the edges, and Tyree Toomer is a four-year starter at free safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Cougar fans might have to be reminded that Andrew Furney missed just 2 of 16 field-goal attempts in 2011 and was 5 of 5 from 40 yards and beyond. Furney is often

Deone Bucannon
Photo by Dave Sizer

SCOUTING REPORT: Offense

2011 stats: 100.2 ypg rushing (10th in Pac-12/111th NCAA), 322.3 passing (2nd/9th), 422.4 total offense (6th/33rd), 29.8 ppg (7th/45th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Jeff Tuel*	Sr.	Collarbone, leg injuries limited him to three games.	Connor Halliday, So.
RB	Rickey Galvin*	So.	Can be an all-around back in Mike Leach's system.	Carl Winston, Sr.
WR	Marquess Wilson*	Jr.	Had 82 catches, was second-team All-Pac-12, in 2011.	Isiah Myers, So.
WR	Dominique Williams	Fr.	Redshirt might be team's most gifted player.	Kristoff Williams, So.
WR	Bobby Ratliff	So.	Reliable slot receiver caught 28 balls last year.	Bennett Bontemps, Jr.
WR	Andrei Lintz*	Sr.	Underused tight end drew raves from Leach.	Blair Bomber, So.
LT	John Fullington*	Jr.	Best Cougar O-lineman since Calvin Armstrong.	Gunnar Eklund, Fr.
LG	Wade Jacobson	Sr.	Granted extra year after being shelved by back injury.	Zack Johnson, So.
C	Matt Goetz*	Jr.	Nine-game starter missed most of spring with injury.	Elliott Bosch, Jr.
RG	Dan Spitz*	Sr.	DL starter early in career has settled in on offense.	Jake Rodgers, So.
RT	Rico Forbes	Jr.	Took redshirt year after transferring from JC.	Denzell Dotson, Fr.
K	Andrew Furney*	Jr.	Was 14 of 16 on FGs, including 7 of 7 beyond 30.	Michael Bowlin, Jr.

*Returning Starter

SCOUTING REPORT: Defense

2011 stats: 157.2 ypg rushing (7th in Pac-12/63rd NCAA), 252.4 passing (6th/93rd), 409.6 total defense (6th/82nd), 31.8 ppg (9th/95th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Xavier Cooper	Fr.	Redshirt impressed in the spring as a pass rusher.	Ian Knight, Jr.
DT	Anthony Laurenzi*	Sr.	Being counted on to be every-play presence.	Toni Pole, So.
DT	Lenard Williams*	Sr.	Needs to generate more pressure to have impact.	Matthew Bock, Jr.
LB	Travis Long*	Sr.	Second-team All-Pac-12, but learning hybrid spot.	Logan Mayes, So.
LB	Darryl Monroe	Fr.	Achilles' injury cost him first season, some of spring.	Corey Laufasa, Sr.
LB	Chester Su'a	So.	Four starts make him WSU's most experienced true LB.	Darren Markle, Jr.
LB	Eric Oertel	Jr.	Converted running back made a mark in spring.	Jared Byers, So.
CB	Daniel Simmons*	Sr.	Has 16 career starts, no interceptions.	Nolan Washington, Jr.
CB	Damante Horton*	Jr.	Led WSU with four interceptions in 2011.	Tracy Clark, So.
SS	Deone Bucannon*	Jr.	Best playmaker in a deep, veteran secondary.	Casey Locker, Jr.
FS	Tyree Toomer*	Sr.	Has 28 career starts, but missed most of spring.	Anthony Carpenter, Jr.
P	Michael Bowlin	Jr.	JC transfer will also handle kickoff duties.	Tyler McNannay, Fr.

*Returning Starter

COUGARS RECRUITING 2012

rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jeremiah Allison	LB	6-1	210	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Dorsey
Rated as the No. 61 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 53 outside linebacker.						
Austin Apodaca	QB	6-2	175	✪✪	Longmont, CO	Silver Creek
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com…Threw for 3,849 yards and 44 touchdowns as a senior.						
Robert Barber	DE	6-3	260	✪✪	American Samoa, NA	Falaigua
Participated in 2011 Samoa Bowl, 2012 IFAF World Game and 2012 IFAF Samoa vs. Australia game...Also plays cricket.						
Brett Bartolone	WR	5-10	175	✪✪	La Habra, CA	La Habra
Had 50 receptions for 643 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior…Chose Washington State over Air Force.						
Michael Bowlin	K	6-4	210	✪✪	Mission Viejo, CA	Saddleback C.C.
Chose Washington State over San Jose State…Enrolled at Washington State in January.						
David Bucannon	DB	6-2	180	✪✪✪	Vacaville, CA	Vanden
Earned all-region, all-city and all-league honors…Recorded 114 tackles and two interceptions as a senior.						
Teondray Caldwell	RB	5-8	201	✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Venice
Earned all-city honors…rushed for 1,085 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior…Enrolled at Washington State in January.						
Feddie Davey	DB	5-10	190	✪✪	Miami, FL	Miami Norland
Chose Washington State over FAU, Illinois, Southern, Toledo, Howard, N.C. Central and Northern Colorado.						
Denzell Dotson	OL	6-2	317	✪✪✪	Glendale, AZ	Cactus
Rated as the nation's No. 46 offensive guard by Rivals.com…Chose Washington State over Arizona State, Montana, Northern Colorado and Wyoming.						
Keith Ewing	LB	6-1	215	✪✪✪	Bellaire, TX	Bellaire
Had 54 tackles and nine sacks as a junior…Chose Washington State over Arkansas, Arizona and Houston.						
Sam Flor	OL	6-4	280	✪✪	Bothell, WA	O'Dea
Earned all-state honors…Also lettered in basketball in high school.						
Ioane Gauta	DT	6-4	300	✪✪✪	Fullerton, CA	Fullerton C.C.
Had 22 tackles, two tackles for loss and two sacks in 2010…Chose Washington State over Hawaii, Iowa State and Kansas State.						
Alex Jackson	WR	5-10	175	✪✪✪	Culver City, CA	Culver City
Rated as the No. 77 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Had 55 receptions for 1,083 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Robert Lewis	RB	5-9	155	✪✪✪	South Gate, CA	South East
Rated as the No. 44 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 10 all-purpose back.						
Gabriel Marks	WR	6-0	175	✪✪✪✪	Los Angeles, CA	Venice
Rivals100 selection…Rated as the No. 15 prospect in California…Rated as the nation's No. 13 wide receiver…Participated in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.						
Eduardo Middleton	OL	6-5	290	✪✪✪	Oceanside, CA	Oceanside
Chose Washington State over Air Force, Boise State, Eastern Washington, Navy, Oregon State, SMU, UNLV and Utah.						
Alex Mitchell	OL	6-2	309	✪✪✪✪	Portland, OR	Jefferson
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 16 offensive guard.						
Kache Palacio	DE	6-2	225	✪✪✪	Gardena, CA	Junipero Serra
Had 92 tackles, 13.5 sacks, one interception and five pass breakups as a senior…Chose Washington State over SMU and UCLA.						
Khalil Pettway	LB	6-4	205	✪✪✪	Culver City, CA	Culver City
Rated as the No. 99 prospect in California by Rivals.com…Rated as the nation's No. 36 inside linebacker.						
Niu Sale	OL	6-4	320	✪✪✪	Wilmington, CA	Los Angeles Harbor C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 24 junior college prospect by Rivals.com…Two-time first-team all-conference selection.						
BJ Salmonson	OL	6-5	285	✪✪	Everson, WA	Nooksack Valley
First-team all-state selection…Played on the offensive and defensive line in high school.						
Taylor Taliulu	DB	5-11	171	✪✪	Aiea, HI	Aiea
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com…Chose Washington State over Hawaii and Idaho.						
Jacob Tuivaiave	DE	6-4	250	✪✪	Tacoma, WA	Washington
Two-time first-team all-state selection…Also participated in track and field.						
Destiny Vaeao	DE	6-3	255	✪✪✪	Pago Pago, American Samoa	Tafuna
Had eight touchdown receptions and 500 receiving yards as a senior...Selected to play in the International Bowl All-Star Game.						
Pierson Villarrubia	OL	6-5	265	✪✪	Mandeville, LA	Lakeside
Earned all-district honors…Chose Washington State over FIU and North Texas.						
Theron West	RB	5-8	170	✪✪✪	Wilmington, CA	Los Angeles Harbor C.C.
Chose Washington State over Idaho, Louisiana Tech, New Mexico State, Ohio, San Jose State, Toledo and Utah State.						

A LOOK AT THE COUGARS

RESULTS

4-8, 2-7

W	IDAHO STATE	64-21
W	UNLV	59-7
L	at San Diego State	24-42
W	at Colorado	31-27
L	at UCLA	25-28
L	STANFORD	14-44
L	OREGON STATE	21-44
L	at Oregon	28-43
L	at California	7-30
W	ARIZONA STATE	37-27
L	UTAH (OT)	27-30
L	at Washington	21-38

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	GP	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
M. Lobbestael	11	208	341	8	61.0	2584	19
C. Halliday	2	48	84	4	57.1	783	6

RUSHING

	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Galvin	12	114	602	5.3	5	48	50.2
C. Winston	12	123	442	3.6	4	18	36.8
M. Mason	12	19	153	8.1	1	65	12.8

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Wilson	12	82	1388	16.9	12	85	115.7
J. Karstetter	12	60	700	11.7	6	44	58.3
I. Barton	12	49	638	13.0	5	44	53.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: A. Hoffman-Ellis 88, D. Bucannon 80, T. Toomer 60
Tackles for loss: T. Long 12, A. Hoffman-Ellis 11, A. Laurenzi 6.5
Sacks: T. Long 4, B. Rankin 2.5, three tied with 2
Interceptions: D. Horton 4, D. Bucannon 3, A. Hoffman-Ellis 1

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'11 Record
Aug. 30	at BYU	10-3
Sept. 8	EASTERN WASHINGTON	6-5
Sept. 15	at UNLV	2-10
Sept. 22	COLORADO	3-10
Sept. 29	vs. Oregon (Seattle)	12-2
Oct. 6	at Oregon State	3-9
Oct. 13	CALIFORNIA	7-6
Oct. 27	at Stanford	11-2
Nov. 3	at Utah	8-5
Nov. 10	UCLA	6-8
Nov. 17	at Arizona State	6-7
Nov. 23	WASHINGTON	7-6

PLAYER PROFILE

Marquess Wilson
Photo by Gary A. Vasquez-US PRESSWIRE

New Regime Pushes WR to New Heights

Mike Leach has a football reputation built on creativity and an off-center approach to just about everything else. But the psychology he trotted out to reach the most accomplished player on his new team was downright old-fashioned.

The coach simply suggested that Marquess Wilson wasn't that accomplished yet.

"Great receivers have great work ethic," Leach said. "Right now, his work ethic is average."

This rip came near the end of a spring that saw Leach continually break down the wideout to build him up, sometimes running the gifted junior with the third string. And, eventually, the message was received — resulting in a 149-yard performance in WSU's spring game.

Wilson admitted that being called out by his coach played a part.

"That's just my fault," he said of his underwhelming spring. "I can understand where they're coming from. Doing that just makes me work harder."

Like any number of athletes who make it look easy, Wilson has a style that suggests his motor is barely running. The results generally reveal something else. As a sophomore, Wilson caught 82 passes for 12 touchdowns and nearly 1,400 yards, topping the Pac-12 in yards per game. Being left off the All-Pac-12 first team seemed like an oversight.

But Leach's spread-out circus demands that Wilson ratchet up his game, and whether it was getting over losing the staff that brought him to Pullman or getting used to the Leach system, that wasn't happening until Wilson snapped out of it.

"It was just time," Wilson said. "I noticed that I was lacking out at practice and losing ... I don't know. It was just hard going out there and practicing hard, and I just realized that's not me."

Barring injury, the 6-4, 183-pound Wilson could become the Cougars' all-time leader in receptions and receiving yards by the end of the season. If he's inclined to pursue his NFL options, that leaves him just this season to play in Leach's system. That sense of urgency finally registered with Wilson as he alternated game-changing plays in the spring with freshman receiver Dominique Williams.

"The guy tries to act like he's not that fast or something," quarterback Jeff Tuel said about Wilson, "but you come out here on the game field and I'll throw it as far as I want and he'll run under it."

Wilson is good enough to do that. Now Leach wants to see if he's great.

BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Jeff Tuel

In a Mike Leach offense, the most reliable playmaker has to be the quarterback. Tuel showed enough before his star-crossed junior year — and in picking up the system in the spring — to suggest the Cougars are solid there. ... He threw for nearly 2,800 yards as a sophomore, with a passing efficiency rating of 133.3. ... Technically, he still has to establish himself over Connor Halliday in the fall, but a 19-for-21 performance in the spring game should reassure Leach.

EMERGING STAR

SS Deone Bucannon

The strong safety has been the Cougars' steadiest defender since he moved into the starting lineup against SMU as a freshman. ... Now a junior, he's the heart of a veteran secondary that will be kept busy as WSU develops a pass rush and its raw linebackers develop. ... A 13-tackle effort in a win over Arizona State showed Bucannon's value, and he's always had all-league ability.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Gabriel Marks

He might not get a chance to show it — WSU is thick with receivers — but don't bet against the freshman from Los Angeles having some early impact. ... Coach Mike Leach raved that Marks "has an incredible tendency to outperform the other players around him." ... Marks caught 65 balls as a high school senior and was his league's defensive MVP, too. ... Was rated a four-star prospect by Rivals.com, among other scouting services.

underestimated, partly from issues he had on kickoffs, but that duty will be assumed by strong-legged junior college transfer Michael Bowlin. The one-time Oregon signee also will step in at punter.

The auditions for the return jobs remain ongoing — newcomer Rahmel Dockery took care of runbacks in the spring game, if that's an indicator — but WSU really needs to make strides in all phases. The Cougars finished last or next-to-last in the Pac-12 in three of four categories on returns and coverage.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

As it was in 2011, the schedule is front-loaded for potential success. WSU opens on the road against BYU, but the Cougars' 10-3 record as an independent last year was deceiving, with only two of those wins (over Utah State and Tulsa) coming over teams with winning records.

Two routine grounders follow for WSU — Eastern Washington and UNLV — before the Cougs open the conference season at home against Colorado, which staggered through its first Pac-12 season at 3-10.

For the second consecutive year, WSU will play a big conference home game at Seattle's CenturyLink Field, this time against Oregon. Following that are two likely must-win games against Oregon State and Cal, the two teams that finished directly ahead of WSU in the Pac-12 North standings in 2011.

The Cougars finish against five bowl teams that were 38-28 last year.

— John Blanchette

PICKING THE MOUNTAIN WEST

After Boise State missed out in '11, MW title should be a lock

So many changes await the Mountain West's 14th season that UNLV's third-year coach Bobby Hauck only half-joked about qualifying as the dean of the league's coaches.

Four new head coaches joined the league. Newcomers Hawaii, Fresno State and Nevada reunite with their historical WAC brethren. TCU is gone. Cornerstones BYU and Utah are long gone.

Even the name changed. "Conference" was dropped from the Mountain West in a logo rebranding last year.

The coach with the longest actual tenure at his current school — that would be Air Force's sixth-year man Troy Calhoun — said, "Any time you're involved with new teams you find out they are pretty intriguing. ... It keeps you extremely alert."

Everybody is on alert about Boise State, the favorite to take the hardware on the way out the door, even while reloading.

"I think there's a lot of assuming going on because of all the things we've earned in the past, but so many of those guys aren't here anymore," Broncos coach Chris Petersen said. "We've never got caught up in outside expectations, good or bad."

Boise State produced a school-record five NFL draft picks, including two first-round selections.

No matter. The Broncos are still favored. Behind them, the field appears to be wide open, with plenty of teams capable of rising up for a challenge into that No. 2 spot.

"This is the most competitive throughout the schedule as it has been," Hauck said.

Part of the mystery going into this fall is a rebuilding year in terms of individual stars.

Besides graduation and the departure of TCU, San Diego State's 1,710-yard rusher Ronnie Hillman left school early and will be taking handoffs from Peyton Manning with the Denver Broncos. New schemes by new coaches sent top receivers packing at New Mexico and Fresno State. Colorado State lost the Mountain West sack leader and another player to disorderly conduct charges.

In place of the league's former stars, young talent at quarterback — junior Derek Carr (Fresno State) and dual-threat sophomores Brett Smith (Wyoming) and Cody Fajardo (Nevada) give those teams a slight edge.

If nothing else, the start of fall drills will return the focus to the field, instead of the latest speculation of future conference membership.

"I only worry about the things I have control over," said Wyoming's Dave Christensen. "Whoever is in the league, we'll show up and play them."

— Natalie Meisler

Mountain West Conference Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Boise State	Broncos have gone 157-33 in the past 15 years; Chris Petersen is still coaching in Boise.	It's a rebuilding year by any measure. QB Kellen Moore, RB Doug Martin aren't easily replaced.	Broncos still good enough to collect a Mountain West trophy before moving on to Big East.
2. Fresno State	Bulldogs have, by far, the league's best run/pass personnel in QB Derek Carr and RB Robbie Rouse.	First team All-WAC WR Jalen Saunders decided to transfer in the spring.	Bulldogs can contend from the get-go if they can master the spread under new coach Tim DeRuyter.
3. Wyoming	MW Freshman of the Year QB Brett Smith plays like a seasoned veteran.	Question marks in the running game abound with premature departure of RB Alvester Alexander.	Helped by coaching continuity, Wyoming is aiming for its most successful season since the mid-90s.
4. San Diego State	Plenty of offensive talent in the pipeline; defense taking to Rocky Long's scheme.	QB Ryan Lindley and RB Ronnie Hillman are gone; that's 4,864 yards of total offense.	The Big East-bound Aztecs will be building toward their new conference digs.
5. Nevada	Sophomore QB Cody Fajardo will operate Chris Ault's Pistol offense with high efficiency.	The Wolf Pack lost 1,615 yards of rushing. Defense was inconsistent a year ago.	Nevada's offense will cause preparation headaches, but the defense needs some improvement.
6. Air Force	Five straight bowl appearances and two straight Commander-in-Chief trophies.	Four-year starting QB Tim Jefferson is gone. So, too, is 1,100-yard rusher Asher Clark.	Air Force springs some of its best seasons when the least is expected. This could be one of those years.
7. Hawaii	Hawaii favorite son Norm Chow draws his first head coaching assignment at age 66.	QB Bryant Moniz is gone, and personnel has to adjust to new offense.	The state of Hawaii never lacks for talent; it's only a question of how soon the players make the transition.
8. Colorado State	RB Chris Nwoke headlines a team that has new energy with a coaching change.	Top two returning defensive players were suspended in spring ball for off-the-field incidents.	Ex-Alabama offensive coordinator Jim McElwain is the right man to revive the program.
9. UNLV	Solid running game behind veteran offensive line and a frontloaded home schedule.	The Rebels were lousy on offense last season; QB race won't be decided until the fall.	Some glimmers of hope as Bobby Hauck enters his third season, but long way to go.
10. New Mexico	Bob Davie is determined to resurrect the program from the wreckage of three one-win seasons.	Lobos ranked last nationally in scoring and next-to-last in scoring defense.	Davie, UNM start all over again. A Pistol offense might at least be fun to watch.

Lindy's 2012 ALL-MWC Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Derek Carr	Jr.	Fresno State
RB	Robbie Rouse	Sr.	Fresno State
RB	Chris Nwoke	Jr.	Colorado State
WR	Billy Ray Stutzmann	Jr.	Hawaii
WR	Matt Miller	So.	Boise State
TE	Gavin Escobar	Jr.	San Diego State
C	Weston Richburg	Jr.	Colorado State
OL	Nik Embernate	Sr.	San Diego State
OL	Chris Barker	Sr.	Nevada
OL	Nick Carlson	Sr.	Wyoming
OL	Brett Boyko	So.	UNLV
AP	Colin Lockett	Jr.	San Diego State
PK	Parker Herrington	Sr.	Air Force

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Paipai Falemalu	Sr.	Hawaii
DL	Mike Purcell	Sr.	Wyoming
DL	Joseph Harris	Sr.	New Mexico
DL	Reggie Ellis	Sr.	UNLV
LB	Alex Means	Sr.	Air Force
LB	Travis Brown	Sr.	Fresno State
LB	Art Laurel	Jr.	Hawaii
DB	Leon McFadden	Sr.	San Diego State
DB	Luke Ruff	Sr.	Wyoming
DB	Mike Edwards	Jr.	Hawaii
DB	Blair Burns	So.	Wyoming
P	Pete Kontodiakos	Sr.	Colorado State

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Brett Smith	So.	Wyoming
RB	D.J. Harper	Sr.	Boise State
RB	Tim Cornett	Jr.	UNLV
WR	Jeremiah Ostrowski	Sr.	Hawaii
WR	Chris McNeill	Sr.	Wyoming
TE	Crockett Gillmore	Jr.	Colorado State
C	Alec Johnson	Sr.	San Diego State
OL	Jeffrey Nady	Sr.	Nevada
OL	Jason Kons	Sr.	Air Force
OL	Joe Kellogg	Sr.	Boise State
OL	Tyler Strong	Jr.	Wyoming
AP	Marcus Sullivan	So.	UNLV
PK	Nolan Kohorst	Jr.	UNLV

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Jack Reynoso	Jr.	Nevada
DL	Ben Durbin	Sr.	Wyoming
DL	Albert Rosette	Sr.	Nevada
LB	Shaquil Barrett	Jr.	Colorado State
LB	John Lotulelei	Sr.	UNLV
LB	Korey Jones	Sr.	Wyoming
LB	J.C. Percy	Sr.	Boise State
DB	Duke Williams	Sr.	Nevada
DB	Marqueston Huff	Jr.	Wyoming
DB	Sidney Hodge	Jr.	UNLV
DB	Nat Berhe	Jr.	San Diego State
P	Chase Lansford	Sr.	UNLV

THE BIG ONES

Aug. 31	Boise State at Michigan State
Sept. 1	Hawaii at USC
Sept. 1	San Diego State at Washington
Sept. 8	Air Force at Michigan
Sept. 20	BYU at Boise State
Sept. 29	San Diego State at Fresno State
Sept. 29	Hawaii at BYU
Oct. 6	Navy at Air Force
Oct. 6	Fresno State at Colorado State
Oct. 13	Fresno State at Boise State
Oct. 13	Nevada at UNLV
Nov. 3	San Diego State at Boise State
Nov. 3	Colorado State at Wyoming
Nov. 24	Boise State at Nevada
Nov. 24	San Diego State at Wyoming

BOWL CONNECTIONS

MWC Champion
Maaco Las Vegas vs. PAC-12

MWC #2
Poinsettia Bowl vs. BYU
(if qualified)

MWC #3
Independence Bowl vs. ACC

MWC #4
New Mexico Bowl vs. Pac-12

MWC #5
Hawaii Bowl vs. C-USA

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Derek Carr	QB	Jr.	Fresno State	"Kid brother" might be better than David, the former top draft pick.
2. Ryan Katz	QB	Sr.	San Diego State	Oregon State transfer remains on the radar.
3. Gavin Escobar	TE	Jr.	San Diego State	Ideal (6-6, 245) size, catching skills.
4. Weston Richburg	C	Jr.	Colorado State	Ranks among best centers for 2014 NFL Draft.
5. Jeffrey Nady	OT	Sr.	Nevada	Projected No. 7 by NFLDraftScout.com among senior OTs.
6. Chris Barker	OG	Sr.	Nevada	Another impact lineman.
7. Robbie Rouse	RB	Sr.	Fresno State	Hard to ignore 1,549 yards last year, but only 5-7.
8. Luke Ruff	SS	Sr.	Wyoming	Undersized at 5-11 but can contribute on special teams.
9. Crockett Gillmore	TE	Jr.	Colorado State	Physical specimen is still learning the position.
10. Brice Butler	WR	Sr.	San Diego State	USC transfer could make impact if he recovers from shoulder injury.

Most Valuable Player	Offensive Player of the Year	Defensive Player of the Year	Newcomer of the Year
Derek Carr QB, Fresno State	Robbie Rouse RB, Fresno State	Leon McFadden DB, San Diego State	Ryan Katz QB, San Diego State

HONOR ROLL

Most Accurate Passer	Derek Carr	Fresno State
Strongest Arm	Derek Carr	Fresno State
Best Scrambler	Cody Fajardo	Nevada
Coolest in the Clutch	Brett Smith	Wyoming
Toughest to Bring Down	Chris Nwoke	Colorado State
Best Hands	Matt Miller	Boise State
Most Dangerous Deep Threat	Colin Lockett	San Diego State
Best Pass Blocker	Brett Boyko	UNLV
Best Run Blocker	Weston Richburg	Colorado State
Best Pass Rusher	Alex Means	Air Force
Best Cover Corner	Leon McFadden	San Diego State
Special Teams Demon	Luke Ruff	Wyoming

AIR FORCE | FALCONS

MWC rank: 6 | Record: 7-6 | MWC record: 3-4 (5th) | Stadium: Falcon Stadium (46,692)

By Frank Schwab

Photo by Matt Quinnan/icon SMI

Mike DeWitt

"A bunch, a bunch of new faces involved. Yet, it's an eager group."
— Coach Troy Calhoun

FALCONS at a GLANCE

COACH: Troy Calhoun — At Air Force and overall: 41-24, 5 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Mike Thiessen, Clay Hendrix, Blane Morgan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Charlton Warren, Steve Russ

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1985
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2006
RETURNING STARTERS: 8; 3 offense, 3 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Connor Dietz, RB Wes Cobb, FB Mike DeWitt, OT Jason Kons, WR Mikel Hunter, OLB Alex Means, DL Nick Fitzgerald, S Anthony Wooding Jr.

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Falcons will be well coached and be very tough to prepare for because of their unique schemes. And history has shown that no matter what players are on offense, Air Force will be an elite rushing team.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Dietz isn't a great passer, so the Falcons could be more predictable on offense. This time, they might not have the quick-strike ability of previous Air Force teams. Defensively, the Falcons were porous in 2011 and will be breaking in eight new starters.

OFFENSE

Troy Calhoun's option offense will be tested, because he doesn't have a lot of experienced players to run it.

Since 1981, Air Force has finished in the national top 10 in rushing every year except one. Last season, the Falcons finished third.

The offense has evolved in the past few years into a multi-dimensional attack, capable of passing the ball to keep a defense honest, but that was with a different group of players. Eight starters have to be replaced from last season's team.

Air Force might not be so dangerous passing the ball with new starting quarterback Connor Dietz, who replaces four-year starter Tim Jefferson.

Dietz has played well in a relief role and got a rare fifth season at the academy (Air Force requires cadets to graduate in four years unless there is a hardship case, which Dietz qualified for because of an injury). He is a great leader and a better runner than Jefferson, but his passing doesn't match Jefferson's.

To complicate matters, top receivers Zack Kauth and Jonathan Warzeka graduated.

There is some experience in the backfield, even though Asher Clark and his consecutive 1,000-yard seasons have moved on. Wes Cobb, a starting fullback last year, moved to tailback in spring and is a good bet to stick there. Mike DeWitt had a good 2011 season behind Cobb at fullback.

DEFENSE

The Falcons have a new coordinator and a lot of new starters. Charlton Warren got a promotion from secondary coach/co-defensive coordinator when Matt Wallerstedt left to be linebackers coach at Texas A&M. Warren has a lot of work to do.

The Falcons bring back just three starters on defense — safety Anthony Wooding Jr., outside linebacker Alex Means and defensive lineman Nick Fitzgerald. Wooding and Fitzgerald weren't even Week One starters for the Falcons, but got pressed into duty last year because of injuries.

Air Force's biggest concern is improving a run defense that finished 109th in the nation. The Falcons hope they can overcome losing three of their top four tacklers from last year, including both inside linebackers, with some scheme changes.

Linebackers will be getting downhill and attacking more often. That fits with the overall new aggressive approach, which will feature more press coverage and blitzing.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Parker Herrington returns after a surprising junior season. Herrington won the kicking job in camp last fall and ended up earning first-team all-conference honors, making 15 of 18 field-goal attempts.

David Baska returns at punter, but he will be challenged by Will Conant in training camp.

Air Force has to replace its return men, and those jobs remain open.

OVERVIEW

Last year was a bit of a disappointment for a senior-laded Falcons squad that didn't beat a team that finished with a winning record. Expectations aren't great, but with some new teams in the conference that aren't familiar with Air Force's schemes, the Falcons could have another winning season.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Jaleel Awini: Awini was a Gatorade Player of the Year in Colorado, and had a good season at Air Force's prep school last year. If Connor Dietz falters as a starter, Air Force has a track record of going to a freshman. But Awini will be pushed by Dano Graves — the two split time at prep school.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	11	Connor Dietz	6-0	190	Sr.
RB	**35**	**Wes Cobb***	**5-9**	**196**	**Sr.**
FB	25	Mike DeWitt	6-1	220	Jr.
WR	10	Mikel Hunter	5-9	170	Sr.
WR	27	Ty MacArthur	5-9	170	Jr.
TE	29	Austin Briehl	6-5	240	Sr.
LT	**75**	**Jason Kons***	**6-4**	**255**	**Sr.**
LG	**67**	**Jordan Eason***	**6-3**	**255**	**Sr.**
C	65	Michael Husar Jr.	6-0	250	Jr.
RG	68	Drew Kerber	6-3	265	Jr.
RT	74	Alex Huskisson	6-6	235	Jr.
DEFENSE					
DE	**97**	**Nick Fitzgerald***	**6-4**	**255**	**So.**
NG	89	Nick DeJulio	6-2	230	Sr.
DE	94	Joseph Champaign	6-1,	230	So.
LB	**50**	**Alex Means***	**6-5**	**230**	**Jr.**
LB	42	Austin Niklas	6-2	230	Sr.
LB	52	Josh Kusan	6-0	210	Sr.
LB	46	Jamil Cooks	6-4	210	Jr.
CB	3	Chris Miller	5-8	185	Jr.
CB	23	Steffon Batts	6-0	180	Jr.
SS	31	Brian Lindsay	6-1	220	Sr.
FS	**4**	**Anthony Wooding Jr.***	**6-2**	**183**	**Jr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**18**	**Parker Herrington***	**6-5**	**185**	**Sr.**
P	**19**	**David Baska***	**6-0**	**182**	**Jr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	IDAHO STATE
Sept. 8	at Michigan
Sept. 22	at UNLV
Sept. 29	COLORADO STATE
Oct. 6	NAVY
Oct. 13	at Wyoming
Oct. 20	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 27	NEVADA
Nov. 3	at Army
Nov. 10	at San Diego State
Nov. 17	HAWAII
Nov. 24	at Fresno State

2011 RESULTS

W	SOUTH DAKOTA	37-20
L	TCU	19-35
W	TENNESSEE STATE	63-24
W	at Navy (OT)	35-34
L	at Notre Dame	33-59
L	SAN DIEGO STATE	27-41
L	at Boise State	26-37
W	at New Mexico	42-0
W	ARMY	24-14
L	WYOMING	17-25
W	UNLV	45-17
W	at Colorado State	45-21
	Military Bowl	
L	vs. Toledo	41-42

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	34.9	19
Rushing	314.8	3
Passing	140.1	113
Total	454.9	22

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	28.4	72
Rushing	219.7	109
Pass	166.8	6
Total	386.5	65

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+0	+0	59

BOISE STATE | BRONCOS

MWC rank: 1 | Record: 12-1 | MWC record: 6-1 (2nd) | Stadium: Bronco Stadium (32,000)

By Chadd Cripe

Photo by Otto Kitsinger III

"We really don't expect a big drop-off. We just don't. ... When you really set standards like that, it's amazing how kids meet and exceed what you're expecting."

— Coach Chris Petersen

BRONCOS at a GLANCE

COACH: Chris Petersen — At Boise State and overall: 73-6, 6 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Robert Prince
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pete Kwiatkowski

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010, WAC co-champs
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2001
RETURNING STARTERS: 10; 7 offense, 2 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB D.J. Harper, WR Matt Miller, WR Mitch Burroughs, WR Kirby Moore, TE Gabe Linehan, OT Charles Leno Jr., OG Joe Kellogg, C Cory Yriarte

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Broncos have 26 seniors, which will help them handle the overhaul to the starting lineups. Nine offensive linemen have started games, the wide receiver corps is deep and experienced, and the secondary could be outstanding. Talent at quarterback is impressive, although inexperienced.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Nobody knows exactly how the loss of quarterback Kellen Moore will affect the offense — it could be a serious issue. The tailback and linebacker depth is scary thin, and the defensive line has six unknowns in the rotation. The kicking situation was a mess last year and is still unresolved.

OFFENSE

Wide receivers coach Robert Prince becomes the third offensive coordinator in as many years for head coach Chris Petersen. Prince inherits an offense that has experience and depth on the offensive line and at wide receiver but needs a quarterback to emerge.

Four players are competing for the quarterback job with junior Joe Southwick, the two-year backup, as the favorite to replace Kellen Moore. Early-arriving true freshman Nick Patti impressed in the spring and could be a factor.

The offensive line returns nine players with starting experience. Junior right tackle Charles Leno Jr. could be the program's next standout tackle.

The wide receiver corps returns sophomore Matt Miller, who tied for the team lead with 62 catches, and five other significant contributors. The tight end crew is young, but junior Gabe Linehan caught five touchdown passes last year.

The backfield features senior D.J. Harper, a big-play tailback getting his first starring role, and senior Dan Paul at fullback.

DEFENSE

Seniors Jamar Taylor and Jerrell Gavins give the Broncos one of the best cornerback tandems in the nation — bolstering an otherwise-inexperienced defense. Taylor enters his third year as a starter. Gavins led the team with three interceptions last season — done in just three games, before sustaining a season-ending knee injury in practice.

The only other returning starter is senior weakside linebacker J.C. Percy. Senior Tommy Smith and sophomore Blake Renaud should handle the chores in the middle, but the linebacker depth stops there.

Three players with game experience return at the nickel spot. At safety, sophomores Lee Hightower and Jeremy Ioane could be a fearsome tandem.

The line is the major question mark. Tackles Michael Atkinson and Ricky Tjong-A-Tjoe played extensively as backups last year, but the rest of the linemen have very little experience.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Broncos spent all of last season trying to find someone who could consistently make kicks — and never found him. They missed eight PATs and didn't hit a field goal longer than 32 yards.

Sophomore Dan Goodale and senior Michael Frisina return, and they're joined by redshirt freshman Jake Van Ginkel and true freshman Sean Wale. If spring ball is any indication, it might be another frustrating year.

Junior kickoff specialist Trevor Harman is expected to handle the punting duties.

OVERVIEW

The last three times that Boise State used a first-year starting quarterback, the Broncos went a combined 33-2 in the regular season — so don't expect a huge drop-off. Still, the road schedule will be a challenge for a team that lost so many multi-year starters.

If the Broncos can win the opener at Michigan State, they'll be in position to make another run at an undefeated season because they won't have another road challenge for a month. If they lose to the Spartans, the season could be a march toward the Mountain West title.

TOP NEWCOMER

DE Demarcus Lawrence: The junior college transfer, who chose Boise State over Tennessee, Kansas State, South Florida and Mississippi, was a force in the spring game. He will compete with redshirt freshman Sam Ukwuachu at the end/outside linebacker position.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Joe Southwick	6-1	191	Jr.
TB	7	D.J. Harper	5-9	201	Sr.
FB	**47**	**Dan Paul***	**6-0**	**251**	**Sr.**
WR	**2**	**Matt Miller***	**6-3**	**213**	**So.**
WR	**20**	**Mitch Burroughs***	**5-9**	**186**	**Sr.**
TE	87	Gabe Linehan	6-3	240	Jr.
LT	75	Faraji Wright	6-3	275	Sr.
LG	**61**	**Joe Kellogg***	**6-2**	**303**	**Sr.**
C	**74**	**Cory Yriarte***	**6-1**	**286**	**Sr.**
RG	**76**	**Jake Broyles***	**6-4**	**289**	**Jr.**
RT	**78**	**Charles Leno Jr.***	**6-3**	**294**	**Jr.**

DEFENSE

DE	N/A	Demarcus Lawrence	6-4	248	So.
DT	99	Michael Atkinson	6-0	312	Sr.
DT	43	Ricky Tjong-A-Tjoe	6-3	303	Jr.
DE	53	Beau Martin	6-2	253	So.
LB	33	Tommy Smith	6-1	236	Sr.
LB	**48**	**J.C. Percy***	**6-0**	**221**	**Sr.**
NB	6	Dextrell Simmons	5-10	202	Sr.
CB	**5**	**Jamar Taylor***	**5-11**	**196**	**Sr.**
CB	4	Jerrell Gavins	5-9	167	Sr.
SS	10	Jeremy Ioane	5-10	192	So.
FS	29	Lee Hightower	6-1	183	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Jake Van Ginkel	6-0	186	Fr.
P	14	Trevor Harman	6-2	216	Jr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	at Michigan State
Sept. 15	MIAMI (OH)
Sept. 22	BYU
Sept. 29	at New Mexico
Oct. 6	at Southern Miss
Oct. 13	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 20	UNLV
Oct. 27	at Wyoming
Nov. 3	SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 10	at Hawaii
Nov. 17	COLORADO STATE
Nov. 24	at Nevada

2011 RESULTS

W	vs. Georgia	35-21
W	at Toledo	40-15
W	TULSA	41-21
W	NEVADA	30-10
W	at Fresno State	57-7
W	at Colorado State	63-13
W	AIR FORCE	37-26
W	at UNLV	48-21
L	TCU	35-36
W	at San Diego State	52-35
W	WYOMING	36-14
W	NEW MEXICO	45-0
	Las Vegas Bowl	
W	vs. Arizona State	56-24

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	44.2	5
Rushing	171.9	40
Passing	309.4	11
Total	481.3	9
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	18.7	12
Rushing	110.0	17
Pass	210.9	43
Total	320.9	16
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
+8	+ 0.62	23

COLORADO STATE | RAMS

MWC rank: 8 | Record: 3-9 | MWC record: 1-6 (T-6th) | Stadium: Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium (32,500)

By Natalie Meisler

Photo by Ron Chenoy-US PRESSWIRE

"They try to turn practice into something you don't dread."
— Center Weston Richburg, on the new coaching staff

RAMS at a GLANCE

COACH: Jim McElwain — At CSU and overall: 1st year
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Baldwin
DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Marty English, Al Simmons

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2002
LAST BOWL: 2008, New Mexico Bowl
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 6 offense, 7 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Chris Nwoke, TE Crockett Gillmore, WR Marquise Law, C Weston Richburg, LB Shaquil Barrett, CB Momo Thomas, P Pete Kontodiakos

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The defense has developed tremendous depth at linebacker and will again show a formidable pass rush. The running game has the personnel to rank among the best in the conference.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The first-year staff has its work cut out to "change the culture." Pass protection was an obvious issue in the spring. The run defense must improve in a big way after allowing opponents to rush for at least 225 yards in seven games last season.

OFFENSE

First-time head coach Jim McElwain — fresh off a national championship stint as Alabama's offensive coordinator — established himself as a man of patience after the Rams' first spring scrimmage.

"You either can't protect or you have a pretty decent pass rusher," he said of Colorado State's posting/allowing 27 sacks that day.

The sacks decreased to six in the spring game, but the first-team offense was still looking for its first spring touchdown.

There was a learning curve for new terminology in the "pro-multiple" offense. And the offensive line was missing two tackles.

While the offense figures to take time to mature — patience needed — there is some exceptional rising talent.

Powerfully built running back Chris Nwoke didn't crack the starting backfield until the seventh game of last season, but he exploded with games of 232 and 269 yards, respectively. Third-year starting center Weston Richburg is a cerebral anchor and could be a Rimington Trophy finalist by the time he leaves.

Wide receiver Marquise Law has emerged from three years of near anonymity, and tight end Crockett Gillmore is a big, reliable target.

Mobile quarterback Garrett Grayson lost his freshman redshirt two-thirds of the way into last season, and wound up starting three games. The prior staff had hitched its future to quarterback Pete Thomas, who transferred before McElwain took over the job.

DEFENSE

Defensive leaders Nordly Capi (the 2011 conference sack leader) and all-league linebacker candidate Mike Orakpo were tossed off the team in the spring. An off-campus fight meant the end of the college careers of Colorado State's best young defensive talents.

Yet, the defense continued to thrive in the spring thanks to end John Froland, as well as developing linebacker depth. The Rams adjusted on the fly to become stronger.

Prior to the suspensions, the biggest news on defense was transitioning to the 3-4. The Rams had worked in some uneven fronts under the prior staff. This will be a wholesale change, allowing for some 4-3 adjustments when dictated by opposing offenses.

"When you're at Alabama or Mississippi you can get a bunch of those D-linemen," coordinator Marty English said of his boss's SEC ties. "It's easiest for us to recruit more linebacker types here."

Fifth-year senior Momo Thomas anchors the secondary. A promising starter as a true freshman, his career was nearly derailed by a shoulder injury. Safety/nickel Shaq Bell, who converted from corner, turned heads when he won the spring game on an interception return.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Pete Kontodiakos has a booming leg (43.6-yard average, No. 20 nationally), further aided by the home field altitude advantage. The return game is solid, but the placekicking position is up for grabs.

OVERVIEW

The Rams have developed an obvious new spring in their step during the offseason after morale had been beaten down by a trio of 3-9 seasons. McElwain won't get it turned around overnight. He can, however, pump enthusiasm back into the program.

TOP NEWCOMER

S Trent Matthews: The redshirt freshman worked his way to a first-team safety position this spring in an otherwise veteran defense. Matthews, from Converse, Texas, could have played last season in an emergency.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**18**	**Garrett Grayson***	**6-2**	**207**	**So.**
RB	**6**	**Chris Nwoke***	**6-0**	**214**	**Jr.**
WR	**2**	**Thomas Coffman***	**5-10**	**172**	**So.**
WR	9	Marquise Law	6-4	193	Sr.
WR	5	Charles Lovett	5-8	172	So.
TE	**10**	**Crockett Gillmore***	**6-6**	**244**	**Jr.**
LT	**77**	**Joe Caprioglio***	**6-6**	**312**	**Sr.**
LG	75	Brandon Haynes	6-3	3-07	Jr.
C	**70**	**Weston Richburg***	**6-4**	**302**	**Jr.**
RG	**64**	**Jordan Gragert***	**6-4**	**295**	**Jr.**
RT	78	Jared Baird	6-7	323	Jr.
DEFENSE					
DE	90	Joe Kawoluk	6-6	250	Fr.
NT	96	Curtis Wilson	6-4	254	Jr.
DE	**57**	**John Froland***	**6-5**	**250**	**So.**
LB	**18**	**Davis Burl***	**6-2**	**236**	**Sr.**
LB	40	Max Morgan	6-1	212	So.
LB	**43**	**James Skelton***	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**
LB	**56**	**Shaquil Barrett***	**6-2**	**241**	**Jr.**
CB	**5**	**Momo Thomas***	**5-9**	**182**	**Sr.**
CB	19	DeAndre Elliott	6-1	172	Fr.
SS	16	Trent Matthews	6-3	195	Fr.
FS	**12**	**Austin Gray***	**6-3**	**209**	**So.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	12	Jared Roberts	6-1	196	Fr.
P	**41**	**Pete Kontodiakos***	**6-3**	**210**	**Jr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 8	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Sept. 15	at San Jose State
Sept. 22	UTAH STATE
Sept. 29	at Air Force
Oct. 6	FRESNO STATE
Oct. 13	at San Diego State
Oct. 27	HAWAII
Nov. 3	at Wyoming
Nov. 10	UNLV
Nov. 17	at Boise State
Nov. 24	NEW MEXICO

2011 RESULTS

W	at New Mexico	14-10
W	NORTHERN COLORADO	33-14
L	at Colorado	14-28
W	at Utah State (OT)	35-34
L	SAN JOSE STATE	31-38
L	BOISE STATE	13-63
L	at UTEP	17-31
L	at UNLV	35-38
L	SAN DIEGO STATE	15-18
L	at TCU	10-34
L	AIR FORCE	21-45
L	WYOMING	19-22

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.4	101
Rushing	166.8	44
Passing	184.6	90
Total	351.4	87
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	31.3	91
Rushing	233.7	116
Pass	179.6	13
Total	413.3	85
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
- 4	- 0.33	85

FRESNO STATE | BULLDOGS

MWC rank: 2 | Record: 4-9 | WAC record: 3-4 (T-4th) | Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

By Bryant-Jon Anteola

Photo by Kelley L Cox-US PRESSWIRE

Robbie Rouse

"It's a major overhaul we're going through, but we'll get it down."
— Coach Tim DeRuyter

BULLDOGS at a GLANCE

COACH: Tim DeRuyter — At Fresno State and overall: 1st year
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Schramm
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Nick Toth

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1999
LAST BOWL: 2010, Humanitarian
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 5 offense, 8 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Derek Carr, RB Robbie Rouse, OL Austin Wentworth, OL Cody Wichmann, LB Travis Brown, LB Patrick Su'a, S Phillip Thomas, LB Jeremiah Toma

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offense returns a lot of weapons and Carr could thrive even more in the new spread offense. Rouse remains a difficult target to get a hold of. Defense was a problem a year ago but could be a strength with a change of schemes and the return of top players like Thomas, DE Anthony Williams and LB Shawn Plummer.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Players still were learning the new schemes as spring camp ended, especially on offense, and it remains unclear if every player has bought into the new system. Top receiver Jalen Saunders transferred, leaving Fresno State without a top-speed wideout. Even if the schemes are completely learned, playing with chemistry is another issue.

OFFENSE

The Bulldogs are scrapping the pro-style offense used the past 15 seasons in favor of a no-huddle spread as they move into the Mountain West with new coach Tim DeRuyter.

It's been a major adjustment for Fresno State, with offensive linemen looking winded and receivers not always sure about their routes during spring camp. But quarterback Derek Carr certainly has the arm and the grasp of the game to flourish in the system once his supporting cast gets up to speed.

Carr, the younger brother of Bulldogs great David Carr, enters his second season as the starter after passing for 3,544 yards and 26 touchdowns last year.

He also will be expected to run more to keep defenses from overplaying the pass. Carr showed on occasion that he can effectively run the zone read.

Running back Robbie Rouse will still get his touches; the spread formation might open different kinds of lanes for the diminutive and productive back.

The offense lost top receiver Jalen Saunders, who chose to transfer after spring camp. But Carr still has two tall targets on the outside — 6-5 Victor Dean and 6-2 Davante Adams — to help ease the loss.

DEFENSE

The Bulldogs were tied for worst in the nation in forcing turnovers, with just nine last season. They also gave up 35.2 points per game, which ranked 106th. But Fresno State gets a handful of key players back who missed last season, most notably safety Phillip Thomas.

Prior to suffering a broken leg before the 2011 opener, Thomas was considered one of the top safeties in the West. He made 64 tackles, intercepted three passes and forced two fumbles in 2010.

Anthony Williams, a 300-pound defensive end, also is back after missing last season for violating an athletic department policy. He will look to offset the departure of two-time All-WAC selection Logan Harrell.

The linebacker corps displayed aggressiveness and appears to have made a smooth transition from the 4-3 scheme to a 3-4 base. The cornerback situation, however, still needs much work and needs to defend deep balls better this season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Fresno State ended spring camp with only non-scholarship kickers on its roster. Curtis O'Neill and Blake Dunn are competing to replace Kevin Goessling, the school's career points leader.

The Bulldogs also must find a replacement for All-American punt returner Devon Wylie. Receiver Isaiah Burse, who handled kickoffs last season, could pull double duty.

Senior punter Andrew Shapiro returns, easing some of uncertainty on special teams play. Shapiro averaged 39.7 yards per punt.

OVERVIEW

After dramatically sliding last season, Fresno State looks to return to conference-title contenders under DeRuyter. The Bulldogs plan to stress an attacking, pressure defense, with their new 3-4 base look, and will feature up-tempo, aerial play with their no-huddle, spread offense. The switch to the Mountain West, though, could hinder Fresno State's quest for immediate results.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Davante Adams: The 6-2, 200-pound redshirt freshman knows how to pull down jump balls, which could pay off big with Fresno State's new emphasis to attack vertically. He was the team's scout team Player of the Year for offense in 2011.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**4**	**Derek Carr***	**6-3**	**205**	**Jr.**
RB	**8**	**Robbie Rouse***	**5-7**	**185**	**Sr.**
WR	**11**	**Rashad Evans***	**5-9**	**180**	**Sr.**
WR	5	Victor Dean	6-5	200	So.
WR	1	Isaiah Burse	5-11	180	Jr.
WR	80	Davante Adams	6-2	200	Fr.
LT	**72**	**Austin Wentworth***	**6-5**	**305**	**Jr.**
LG	75	Trevor Richter	6-4	280	Sr.
C	**78**	**Richard Helepiko***	**6-2**	**300**	**Sr.**
RG	68	Max Devlin	6-3	275	Sr.
RT	73	Cody Wichmann	6-5	310	So.
DEFENSE					
DE	91	Anthony Williams	6-2	300	Sr.
DT	92	Tyeler Davison	6-2	305	So.
DE	**90**	**Nat Harrison***	**6-2**	**240**	**Jr.**
LB	**9**	**Travis Brown***	**6-2**	**235**	**Sr.**
LB	**32**	**Jeremiah Toma***	**6-0**	**215**	**Jr.**
LB	**30**	**Patrick Su'a***	**6-2**	**220**	**Jr.**
LB	**88**	**Tristan Okpalaugo***	**6-5**	**240**	**Sr.**
CB	2	Davon Dunn	5-11	185	So.
CB	**4**	**L.J. Jones***	**5-11**	**180**	**Jr.**
SS	**16**	**Phillip Thomas***	**6-1**	**205**	**Sr.**
FS	**20**	**Cris Wilson***	**5-8**	**175**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	38	Curtis O'Neil	5-11	200	Jr.
P	**34**	**Andrew Shapiro***	**6-0**	**190**	**Sr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	WEBER STATE
Sept. 8	at Oregon
Sept. 15	COLORADO
Sept. 22	at Tulsa
Sept. 29	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 6	at Colorado State
Oct. 13	at Boise State
Oct. 20	WYOMING
Oct. 27	at New Mexico
Nov. 3	HAWAII
Nov. 10	at Nevada
Nov. 24	AIR FORCE

2011 RESULTS

L	at California	21-36
L	at Nebraska	29-42
W	NORTH DAKOTA	27-22
W	at Idaho	48-24
L	MISSISSIPPI	28-38
L	BOISE STATE	7-57
W	UTAH STATE	31-21
L	at Nevada	38-45
L	LOUISIANA TECH	21-41
L	at New Mexico State	45-48
W	at Hawaii	24-21
L	SAN JOSE STATE	24-27
L	at San Diego State	28-35

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	28.5	52
Rushing	139.2	75
Passing	272.6	27
Total	411.9	37
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
Scoring	35.2	106
Rushing	166.6	72
Pass	269.2	106
Total	435.9	100
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**RANK**
-14	-1.08	116

HAWAII | WARRIORS

MWC rank: 7 | Record: 6-7 | WAC record: 3-4 (T-4th) | Stadium: Aloha Stadium (50,000)

By Paul Arnett

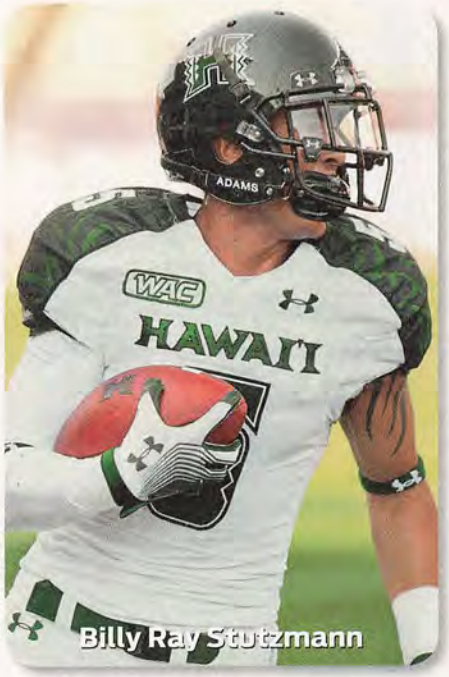


Photo by Dave Sizer

Billy Ray Stutzmann

"We have a lot of work still to do in fall camp."

— Coach Norm Chow

WARRIORS at a GLANCE

COACH: Norm Chow — At Hawaii and overall: 1st year
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tommy Lee
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Thom Kaumeyer

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010, co-champs
LAST BOWL: 2010, Hawaii
RETURNING STARTERS: 9; 3 offense, 4 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB David Graves, QB Jeremy Higgins, RB Joey Iosefa, WR Miah Ostrowski, WR Billy Ray Stutzmann, C Ben Clarke, DE Paipai Falemalu, CB Mike Edwards

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offense returns key starters, even though the system has shifted from the run-and-shoot to the West Coast. Chow has several backs and receivers capable of making big plays, including wideouts Ostrowski and Trevor Davis. Iosefa, a high school quarterback, will be used all over the backfield.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: A lot has been made about the scheme change on offense, but the defensive adjustments also affects UH. Under Chow, a 5-2 will be used at times in place of the 4-3. Finding the right guys for the right spots proved challenging in the spring; especially with only one starting lineman and linebacker returning.

OFFENSE

When quarterback Jeremy Higgins began spring football, he was No. 4 on the depth chart with only a faint hope of reaching the top. When spring was done, new coach Norm Chow still couldn't pull the trigger, opting to wait until summer before naming the top guy for fall camp.

David Graves was the No. 1 man going into spring, but he didn't seize the day, too often breaking tail and running, instead of standing in the pocket waiting for the play to develop. Connecting on only 5 of 16 attempts in the spring game didn't help Graves' cause either as the offense transitions from the run-and-shoot to a two-back pro set.

Graves played in six games last year, starting two. He rushed for 154 yards and five touchdowns. He also threw for 768 yards and five scores. Higgins threw for 100 yards in the Warrior Bowl, completing a modest 10 of 23.

Tailback Will Gregory, who raised a few eyebrows with 71 yards and a score in the spring game, isn't a proven commodity. Look for returning starter Joey Iosefa to be at fullback. He led all carriers with 548 yards last year and seven touchdowns. Sterling Jackson figures in the mix. He led Hawaii with eight rushing touchdowns.

Finding a reliable tight end is proving difficult since UH hasn't employed one in 14 years. Many receivers from the run-and-shoot era are vying for only two spots on the field; look for returning starter Billy Ray Stutzmann and redshirt Chris Gant to be at the top of the list.

DEFENSE

Chow is also altering the defense, which has only four returning starters. Coordinator Thom Kaumeyer plans to pressure on nearly every down. And with that, comes high expectations from a front seven still learning the basics.

Senior defensive end Paipai Falemalu will be called upon, as well as fellow returning starter Art Laurel at linebacker. Throw in returning cornerbacks Mike Edwards and John Hardy-Tuliau, and good things could happen.

Hardy-Tuliau tied for the team lead with three picks and was third in tackles with 73. Edwards and Laurel had one interception apiece. Laurel was fourth in tackles with 61, including a team-high nine sacks.

Now, finding the other seven starters may take time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A pair of returning starters — punter Alex Dunnachie and placekicker Tyler Hadden — are battle-tested.

Dunnachie averaged 39.7 yards last season. Chow spent the spring trying to teach the senior a little more directional punting. Hadden hit 5 of 10 field-goal attempts and 18 of 21 PATs in 2011. He was equally erratic in the spring game, but still connected on one from 53 yards.

OVERVIEW

This is going to be a difficult transition for Chow and his team. The schedule is significantly tougher in Hawaii's first year in the Mountain West, plus there are difficult non-conference meetings with USC and Brigham Young. A .500 record would be something to celebrate.

TOP NEWCOMER

C Ben Clarke: The freshman anchored the offensive line this spring, before an ankle injury cut short his participation in the Warrior Bowl. With a new O-line that has a tight end in it for the first time this century, look for Clarke to be a key component for Hawaii.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	12	Jeremy Higgins	6-1	200	So.
RB	**7**	**Joey Iosefa***	**6-0**	**240**	**So.**
WR	80	Miah Ostrowski	5-9	175	Sr.
WR	**5**	**Billy Ray Stutzmann***	**6-0**	**175**	**Jr.**
WR	1	Chris Gant	6-0	180	Jr.
TE	7	Tavita Woodard	6-1	250	Jr.
LT	66	Blake Muir	6-5	290	Fr.
LG	62	Chauncy Winchester	6-4	325	Jr.
C	71	Ben Clarke	6-3	275	Fr.
RG	**76**	**David Lefotu***	**6-3**	**305**	**So.**
RT	68	Sean Shigematsu	6-4	305	Fr.
DEFENSE					
DE	92	Beau Yap	6-1	260	So.
DT	91	Moses Samia	6-1	295	So.
DT	90	Geordon Hanohano	6-1	300	Sr.
DE	**42**	**Paipai Falemalu***	**6-3**	**245**	**Sr.**
LB	**41**	**Art Laurel***	**6-0**	**235**	**Jr.**
LB	3	T.J. Taimatuia	6-3	235	So.
LB	55	George Daily-Lyles	5-11	230	Jr.
CB	**2**	**Mike Edwards***	**5-10**	**180**	**Jr.**
CB	**33**	**John Hardy-Tuliau***	**5-11**	**165**	**Jr.**
S	18	Mike Sellers	5-11	175	So.
S	9	Bubba Poueu-Luna	5-11	175	So.
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**27**	**Tyler Hadden***	**5-11**	**180**	**So.**
P	**31**	**Alex Dunnachie***	**6-4**	**220**	**Sr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	at USC
Sept. 15	LAMAR
Sept. 22	NEVADA
Sept. 29	at BYU
Oct. 6	at San Diego State
Oct. 13	NEW MEXICO
Oct. 27	at Colorado State
Nov. 3	at Fresno State
Nov. 10	BOISE STATE
Nov. 17	at Air Force
Nov. 24	UNLV
Dec. 1	SOUTH ALABAMA

2011 RESULTS

W	COLORADO	34-17
L	at Washington	32-40
L	at UNLV	20-40
W	UC DAVIS	56-14
W	at Louisiana Tech	44-26
L	at San Jose State	27-28
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	45-34
W	at Idaho	16-14
L	UTAH STATE	31-35
L	at Nevada	28-42
L	FRESNO STATE	21-24
W	TULANE	35-23
L	BYU	20-41

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	31.5	36
Rushing	95.4	113
Passing	308.8	12
Total	404.2	43

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.1	80
Rushing	142.5	53
Pass	244.9	85
Total	387.4	66

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-2	-0.15	74

NEVADA | WOLF PACK

MWC rank: 5 Record: 7-6 WAC record: 5-2 WAC (T-2nd) Stadium: Mackay Stadium (29,993)

By Chris Murray

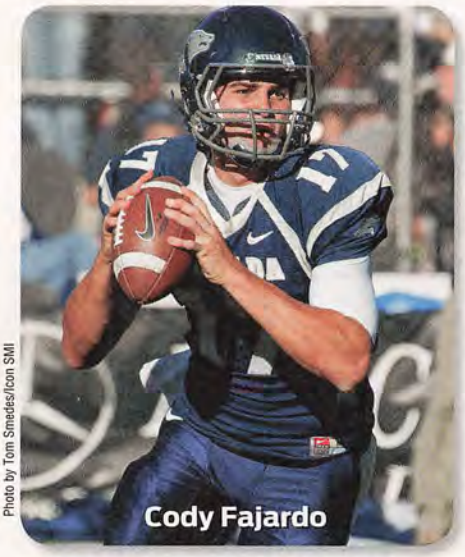


Photo by Tom Smedes/Icon SMI

"We don't have any All-Americans. ... We're going to have to put our nose to the grindstone and work at it every day." — Defensive coordinator Mike Bradeson

WOLF PACK at a GLANCE

COACH: Chris Ault – At Nevada and overall: 226-103-1, 27 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Nick Rolovich
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Bradeson

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2010
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2004
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 7 offense, 6 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Cody Fajardo, RB Stefphon Jefferson, WR Brandon Wimberly, TE Zach Sudfeld, OT Jeff Nady, OG Chris Barker, CB Khalid Wooten, SS Duke Williams

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The run-first Pistol offense is always statistically one of the nation's best, and that should be the case again this season. The offensive line returns a bunch of talent. Defensively, the secondary — usually a huge weakness — returns three starters and should be a strength.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Outside of Fajardo, Nevada is thin at the skill positions. Can its scheme make up for a lack of talent at receiver? Fajardo also was prone to injury in 2011, and his backup is a big question mark. Defensively, the front seven has almost no experience. With three new coaches and two new coordinators, there could be an adjustment period.

OFFENSE

The Wolf Pack offense will look to add a little lightening to its thunder.

Since coach Chris Ault returned to the sidelines in 2004, he's implemented a run-first Pistol attack. Nevada led the nation in rushing in 2009, but it slowly has tried to balance the scheme with more passing.

Insert Nick Rolovich, the former coordinator in Hawaii's run-and-shoot hired by Nevada to add some passing wrinkles. Quarterback Cody Fajardo, the reigning WAC Freshman of the Year, has a few weapons in the pass game, although depth at the receiver position is an issue.

Zach Sudfeld, a sticky-handed 6-7 tight end, is a big target who could be in line for a breakout season if he stays healthy. That's a big if for the oft-injured sixth-year senior. Brandon Wimberly, who missed the 2011 season following a gunshot wound to the stomach, anchors the receiving corps.

While the line has the potential to be dominant, the offense as a whole isn't as talented as past Nevada teams. The unit will have to limit turnovers and ride scheme over skills to maintain the Wolf Pack's high offensive standard.

DEFENSE

Inexperience will mark the Wolf Pack defense, especially the front line.

Nevada does return three starters on the front seven, but one (nose guard Jack Reynoso) is returning from a broken leg and another (Albert Rosette) was a defensive end last year and will play middle linebacker this season.

The front seven is talented, but growing pains should be expected. Nevada would love to get some immediate impact from junior college transfers, such as defensive end Shane Pennix and defensive tackle Cortez Woods.

The secondary has a lot more experience. Strong safety Duke Williams was named all-conference after recording 83 tackles in 2011. Cornerback Khalid Wooten has eight career interceptions and a full season of starting under his belt. Free safety Marlon Johnson is a three-year starter.

Nevada needs its defensive backs, typically one of the team's weaknesses, to carry a unit that enters the season with several question marks.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams guru Larry Lewis was hired to turn a nagging weakness into a strength.

Gone is punt returner Rishard Matthews, who had two career return touchdowns. But small and slippery kick returner Kendall Brock is back. So, too, are kickers Allen Hardison and Anthony Martinez, who shared the starting duties last season before going down with injuries.

Punting duties will be held by strong-legged lefty Chase Tenpenny, a former junior college All-American who has no experience at the FBS level.

OVERVIEW

Ault revamped his coaching staff to jolt the program as it heads into the Mountain West Conference. Despite reaching a bowl for the seventh straight season, Nevada underachieved in 2011 after a 2010 season in which it finished in the Top 25. A return to the rankings this season is unlikely, but Ault is looking for a top-three conference finish in Nevada's MWC debut.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Nigel Westbrooks: Much will be expected from Westbrooks, a transfer from Palomar College in San Marcos, Calif. He caught 52 passes for 729 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2011. "A quality young man with excellent speed," coach Chris Ault said.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**17**	**Cody Fajardo***	**6-2**	**205**	**So.**
RB	25	Stefphon Jefferson	5-11	200	Jr.
WR	4	Brandon Wimberly	6-3	210	Sr.
WR	**81**	**Aaron Bradley***	**6-1**	**180**	**So.**
WR	n/a	Nigel Westbrooks	6-1	185	Jr.
TE	**44**	**Zach Sudfeld***	**6-7**	**250**	**Sr.**
LT	**78**	**Joe Nady***	**6-7**	**290**	**Sr.**
LG	**75**	**Chris Barker***	**6-4**	**305**	**Sr.**
C	65	Matt Galas	6-1	275	So.
RG	77	Alex Pinto	6-3	300	Sr.
RT	**70**	**Joel Bitonio***	**6-4**	**300**	**Jr.**
DEFENSE					
DE	99	Sam Foster	6-4	260	Jr.
DT	55	Rykeem Yates	6-2	270	Fr.
NT	**98**	**Jack Reynoso***	**6-3**	**275**	**Jr.**
DE	53	Brock Hekking	6-4	245	So.
LB	**54**	**Jeremiah Green***	**6-2**	**230**	**Sr.**
LB	**51**	**Albert Rosette***	**6-2**	**245**	**Sr.**
LB	42	DeAndre Boughton	6-1	215	Sr.
CB	**2**	**Khalid Wooten***	**6-0**	**195**	**Sr.**
CB	22	Thaddeus Brown	5-11	180	Sr.
SS	**20**	**Duke Williams***	**6-1**	**190**	**Sr.**
FS	**8**	**Marlon Johnson***	**5-11**	**190**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**60**	**Allen Hardison***	**6-4**	**190**	**Sr.**
P	37	Chase Tenpenny	6-4	245	Jr.

*Returning starter

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	at California
Sept. 8	SOUTH FLORIDA
Sept. 15	NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 22	at Hawaii
Sept. 29	at Texas State
Oct. 6	WYOMING
Oct. 13	at UNLV
Oct. 20	SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 27	at Air Force
Nov. 10	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 17	at New Mexico
Nov. 24	BOISE STATE

2011 RESULTS

L	at Oregon	20-69
W	at San Jose State	17-14
L	at Texas Tech	34-35
L	at Boise State	10-30
W	UNLV	37-0
W	NEW MEXICO	49-7
W	FRESNO STATE	45-38
W	at New Mexico State	48-34
W	HAWAII	42-28
L	LOUISIANA TECH	20-24
L	at Utah State	17-21
W	IDAHO	56-3
	Hawaii Bowl	
L	vs. Southern Miss	17-24

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	31.7	35
Rushing	247.5	8
Passing	259.2	32
Total	506.7	6

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.2	58
Rushing	147.4	56
Pass	221.9	57
Total	369.2	52

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+ 0	+ 0	59

SAN DIEGO STATE | AZTECS

MWC rank: 4 | Record: 8-5 | MWC record: 4-3 (4th) | Stadium: Qualcomm (54,000)

By Brent Schrotenboer

Photo by Steve Beyer

Leon McFadden

"We have four or five really good young running backs in the program. Now, I am not saying that they are Ronnie Hillman ..."

— Coach Rocky Long

AZTECS at a GLANCE

COACH: Rocky Long — At SDSU: 8-5, 1 year
OVERALL: 73-74, 12 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Andy Ludwig
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rocky Long

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1986, WAC
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2009
RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 6 offense, 5 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Ryan Katz, RB Adam Muema, WR Brice Butler, TE Gavin Escobar, LB Jake Fely, CB Leon McFadden, S Nat Berhe

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: If the blocking holds, SDSU has plenty of medium- and long-range threats in the passing game. Escobar is one of the best tight ends in the country. On defense, the secondary is laden with veteran athletes and speedsters expected to produce turnovers galore.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The offensive line is being rebuilt under a new position coach, which probably won't make things easier on a new quarterback and running back. The defensive line also has been rebuilt with three new starters and will be tested against the run in SDSU's final season in the Mountain West.

OFFENSE

The Aztecs have earned back-to-back bowl berths in large part because of their offense.

But most of that firepower is gone. Ryan Lindley, SDSU's career passing leader, was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals. Ronnie Hillman, SDSU's No. 3 career leading rusher, went to the Denver Broncos.

Three of their five starting blockers are gone, too.

So what can the Aztecs do about it?

They've turned to a transfer quarterback: Ryan Katz, a senior who enrolled in January from Oregon State.

At running back, Hillman is going to be replaced by a committee of backs, led by sophomore Adam Muema, who rushed for 253 yards on 42 carries last year.

The biggest worry might be about the offensive line, which became a patchwork operation in spring practice, including the move of Bryce Quigley from tight end to left tackle.

Meanwhile, Katz still faces a learning curve with SDSU's pro-style offense. Fortunately, he will have a restocked corps of pass catchers, led by USC transfer Brice Butler and tight end Gavin Escobar.

DEFENSE

Coach Rocky Long previously said that it takes a few years to learn his rare 3-3-5 defense.

It's now Year Four.

But progress could be slow because SDSU lost its top two tacklers from 2011, both of whom were drafted into the NFL — linebacker Miles Burris (Oakland) and nose tackle Jerome Long (Kansas City).

The biggest issue for SDSU will be holding the fort on the defensive line, where all three starters from last season are gone.

With all those key departures, how will the Aztecs fare against the run? That's the question that will help decide whether the Aztecs go to another bowl this year.

In the secondary, senior cornerback Leon McFadden opted not to turn pro after his junior year. He returns as likely the best cornerback in the Mountain West and the leader of a defense that's yet to reach dominant status under Long.

The Aztecs have come a long way since 2008, when SDSU ranked 113th out of 119 major college teams in total defense. Last year, SDSU ranked 68th — which was good enough sometimes, but far from what Long expects.

Many young players could emerge, including sophomore nose tackle Sam Meredith.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Aztecs are banking on a true freshman, Seamus McMorrow, who will get a shot to be the kicker and punter. His only competition will be non-scholarship players after last year's starting kicker and punter graduated.

OVERVIEW

SDSU had a lost decade from 1999-2009 — three head coaches fired and no bowl games. Now the program is back on track and will benefit from a schedule weakened by the departures of BYU, Utah and TCU from the Mountain West. But next year, SDSU also is leaving the Mountain West for greener pastures — the Big East — and will need big years from Katz, McMorrow, Muema and others to keep building the positive momentum.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Ryan Katz: He transferred after losing his starting job at Oregon State. Now he's got one year left to win the starting job and make an impact. The Aztecs' success will largely depend on how quickly he can adapt. The first game will not be easy, although the opponent will be familiar to Katz: Washington.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Ryan Katz	6-1	215	Sr.
RB	4	Adam Muema	5-10	190	So.
FB	**40**	**Chad Young***	**5-11**	**225**	**Jr.**
WR	**10**	**Dylan Denso***	**6-2**	**210**	**Jr.**
WR	**24**	**Colin Lockett***	**6-0**	**175**	**Jr.**
TE	**88**	**Gavin Escobar***	**6-6**	**245**	**Jr.**
LT	78	Bryce Quigley	6-5	260	Jr.
LG	65	Japheth Gordon	6-3	290	Jr.
C	**71**	**Alec Johnson***	**6-3**	**300**	**Sr.**
RG	**68**	**Nik Embernate***	**6-4**	**300**	**Sr.**
RT	64	Zack Dilley	6-4	385	So.

DEFENSE

DE	47	Cody Galea	6-3	255	So.
DT	98	Sam Meredith	6-4	250	So.
DE	91	Frederick Trujillo	6-1	230	Sr.
LB	36	Nick Tenhaeff	6-2	225	Jr.
LB	**42**	**Jake Fely***	**5-10**	**200**	**So.**
LB	48	Josh Gavert	6-2	210	So.
CB	**2**	**Leon McFadden***	**5-10**	**185**	**Sr.**
CB	12	Josh Wade	6-0	185	Sr.
S	**20**	**Nat Berhe***	**5-10**	**185**	**Jr.**
S	27	Eric Pinkins	6-3	205	Jr.
S	39	Rene Siluano	5-10	185	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	N/A	Seamus McMorrow	5-11	190	Fr.
P	N/A	Seamus McMorrow	5-11	190	Fr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	at Washington
Sept. 8	ARMY
Sept. 15	NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 22	SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 29	at Fresno State
Oct. 6	HAWAII
Oct. 13	COLORADO STATE
Oct. 20	at Nevada
Oct. 27	UNLV
Nov. 3	at Boise State
Nov. 10	AIR FORCE
Nov. 24	at Wyoming

2011 RESULTS

W	CAL POLY	49-21
W	at Army	23-20
W	WASHINGTON STATE	42-24
L	at Michigan	7-28
L	TCU	14-27
W	at Air Force	41-27
L	WYOMING	27-30
W	NEW MEXICO	35-7
W	at Colorado State	18-15
L	BOISE STATE	35-52
W	at UNLV	31-14
W	FRESNO STATE	35-28
	New Orleans Bowl	
L	vs. Louisiana	30-32

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.8	46
Rushing	184.5	30
Passing	242.9	49
Total	427.4	32

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.0	57
Rushing	169.5	78
Pass	221.7	55
Total	391.2	68

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+12	+0.92	9

BYU | COUGARS

Independent | Record: 10-3 | Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)

By Natalie Meisler

Photo by Dennis Hubbard

"Once he gets out of the pocket, he makes plays on his own."
— WR Cody Hoffman on multi-threat QB Riley Nelson

COUGARS at a GLANCE

COACH: Bronco Mendenhall — At BYU and overall: 66-24, 7 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brandon Doman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bronco Mendenhall

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2007, Mountain West
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2004
RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 5 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Riley Nelson, WR Cody Hoffman, OG Braden Hansen, DE Ian Dulan, LB Brandon Ogletree, LB Uona Kaveinga, CB Preston Hadley, K Justin Sorensen

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Junior WR Cody Hoffman is as solid a receiver as BYU has seen since Austin Collie. He has a sixth sense for Nelson's change-of-direction plays. On the other side, the linebackers should be among one of the best units in the country. The Cougars were No. 13 nationally in total defense, yielding 313.4 yards a game.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The running game doesn't have a breakaway threat and there are some holes to fill on the offensive line. The Cougars improved last year as Nelson grew into the starting role. The biggest challenge this time might be maintaining focus against a weak November schedule.

OFFENSE

Consider quarterback Riley Nelson as BYU's version of Tim Tebow.

"Just when you think you have him down, he throws it sidearm or turns and throws to the other side of the field," said Cougars' eighth-year coach Bronco Mendenhall.

Nelson took a circuitous route to his first spring ball as an incumbent starter. He started as true freshman for Utah State in 2006, served a church mission in Barcelona and transferred to BYU. A shoulder injury derailed his 2010 season, but then he sent big-time recruit Jakes Heaps packing for Kansas.

His final play of 2011 vs. Tulsa in the Armed Forces Bowl set the stage for this season. BYU coaches wanted Nelson to spike the ball with the seconds ticking away. Nelson called an audible, faked the spike and connected from 2 yards out for Cody Hoffman's third touchdown in a 24-21 thriller.

Hoffman, the bowl MVP and Nelson's roommate, has a sixth sense for anticipating the quarterback's next move. Hoffman returns with another big receiver, sophomore Ross Apo (6-3, 206). They combined for nearly 1,400 yards and 19 touchdowns last season.

The turning point of 2011 came when Nelson averted an upset by Utah State. At the time, BYU was languishing at No. 78 in the country in third-down conversions, only to finish No. 5.

With an adequate running game lacking in breakaway threats, Nelson will bear most of the pressure to move the offense. There are some holes in the offensive line, and the Cougars are looking to revive their tight end dynasty.

DEFENSE

BYU has big-name returning linebacker starters Kyle Van Noy, Brandon Ogletree and Uona Kaveinga, plus returning missionaries and former starters Ian Dulan and Russell Tialavea on the defensive line.

With all that, BYU appears capable of again dominating the line of scrimmage.

Mendenhall — who doubles as defensive coordinator — has the luxury of rotating in fresh legs. He also has one of the most intriguing players in the land in Ghana import Ezekiel Ansah — if he masters the nuances of the game.

Ansah, nicknamed "Ziggy," originally came to BYU on a track scholarship. Now 6-6, 270 pounds, he grew out of his sprinter's body and discovered American football. He's a backup end/outside linebacker.

Standout senior corner Preston Hadley and junior strong safety Daniel Sorensen return in the secondary.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This is another Cougar strength, featuring placekicker Justin Sorensen, who played in the 2008 U.S. Army All-American game, punter Riley Stephenson and Hoffman, who returned a kickoff for a 93-yard touchdown last fall.

OVERVIEW

The Cougars enter their second year of independence with the talent and experience to compete with the likes of three Pac-12 foes, Notre Dame and Georgia Tech. Four WAC opponents provide insurance for BYU to easily qualify for a pre-arranged Poinsettia Bowl bid. A BCS debate is not beyond possibility.

TOP NEWCOMER

OT Ryker Matthews: He would have played as a true freshman a year ago if not for a foot injury forcing surgery and a medical redshirt. He learned from the best — team leader and graduated offensive lineman Matt Reynolds.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**13**	**Riley Nelson***	**6-0**	**196**	**Sr.**
RB	42	Michael Alisa	6-1	213	Jr.
FB	35	Zed Mendenhall	5-11	245	Sr.
WR	1	Ross Apo	6-3	206	So.
WR	**2**	**Cody Hoffman***	**6-4**	**208**	**Jr.**
TE	80	Marcus Mathews	6-4	208	Jr.
LT	72	Ryker Mathews	6-6	313	Fr.
LG	**76**	**Braden Hansen***	**6-6**	**313**	**Sr.**
C	**78**	**Houston Reynolds***	**6-2**	**296**	**Jr.**
RG	74	Brock Stringham	6-6	287	So.
RT	**75**	**Braden Brown***	**6-6**	**301**	**Sr.**
DEFENSE					
DE	**55**	**Eathyn Manumaleuna***	**6-2**	**294**	**Sr.**
NT	**98**	**Romney Fuga***	**6-2**	**321**	**Sr.**
DE	39	Ian Dulan	6-1	270	Sr.
LB	2	Spencer Hadley	6-1	230	Jr.
LB	**4**	**Uona Kaveinga***	**5-11**	**236**	**Sr.**
LB	**44**	**Brandon Ogletree***	**5-11**	**228**	**Sr.**
LB	**3**	**Kyle Van Noy***	**6-3**	**235**	**Jr.**
CB	6	Jordan Johnson	5-10	185	So.
CB	**7**	**Preston Hadley***	**6-0**	**200**	**Sr.**
SS	**9**	**Daniel Sorensen***	**6-2**	**206**	**Jr.**
FS	1	Joe Sampson	5-10	213	Sr.
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**37**	**Justin Sorensen***	**6-1**	**232**	**Jr.**
P	**99**	**Riley Stephenson***	**6-0**	**196**	**Sr.**

* Returning Starters in Bold

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 8	WEBER STATE
Sept. 15	at Utah
Sept. 20	at Boise State
Sept. 29	HAWAII
Oct. 5	UTAH STATE
Oct. 13	OREGON STATE
Oct. 20	at Notre Dame
Oct. 27	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 10	IDAHO
Nov. 17	at San Jose State
Nov. 24	at New Mexico State

2011 RESULTS

W	at Ole Miss	14-13
L	at Texas	16-17
L	UTAH	10-54
W	UCF	24-17
W	UTAH STATE	27-24
W	SAN JOSE STATE	29-16
W	at Oregon State	38-28
W	IDAHO STATE	56-3
L	at TCU	28-38
W	IDAHO	42-7
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	42-7
W	at Hawaii	41-20
	Armed Forces Bowl	
W	vs. Tulsa	24-21

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.1	42
Rushing	160.3	55
Passing	245.4	47
Total	405.7	41

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.4	22
Rushing	112.5	19
Pass	200.9	32
Total	313.4	13

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-2	-0.15	74

Watered down WAC is Louisiana Tech's to lose

Before we delve into an analysis of the 2012 WAC race, let's take a minute to review who's actually participating in the 2012 WAC race.

Three longtime members, Nevada, Fresno State and Hawaii, are gone — as of July 1, they will be members of the Mountain West.

Louisiana Tech, Utah State, Idaho, San Jose State and New Mexico State will remain in the WAC (because they didn't have better options).

Those five continuing members will be joined by Texas State and Texas-San Antonio —– both are newcomers to the Football Bowl Subdivision — to form a seven-team conference.

For now. Several schools were possible expansion targets for Conference USA, the Mountain West Conference and the Sun Belt, as of late spring.

All of the turnover has resulted in the following changes, qualifiers and caveats this fall:

• The league has just one bowl affiliation: The Famous Idaho Potato Bowl in Boise.

• Texas-San Antonio and Texas State are eligible for the conference title but cannot participate in the postseason due to their FBS transitional status (TSU is in the second year of the two-year process; UTSA is in the first).

• Victories over Texas State count toward bowl eligibility; victories over UTSA do not.

Got it?

Now that we've addressed those matters: Who's going to win this thing?

That seems fairly straightforward: Louisiana Tech is the clear favorite.

The Bulldogs won the conference last season with a 6-1 league record when Nevada, Hawaii and Fresno State were involved.

With most of its starting lineup returning — a lineup that includes a veteran quarterback, talent on both lines and proven playmakers — La. Tech's advantage relative to the adjusted competition is even greater.

Only two teams seem capable of challenging the Bulldogs: Utah State and San Jose State.

Both are ascendant programs with veteran rosters. But they'll need to far exceed expectations — or have Louisiana Tech stumble mightily — in order to capture the league title.

Idaho and New Mexico State simply suffered too much attrition to compete with the league's upper echelon.

Meanwhile, it's difficult to envision a scenario in which newcomers Texas State and UTSA don't finish at the bottom of the standings.

The jump in competition from FCS to FBS — even WAC-level FBS — is simply too great to overcome in one season.

— Jon Wilner

WAC Picks

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Louisiana Tech	Bulldogs return 14 starters, including veteran QB Colby Cameron and four on OL.	The defensive front seven must be overhauled, especially at linebacker.	Best combination of talent and experience makes La. Tech the prohibitive favorite.
2. Utah State	Two options at quarterback with Adam Kennedy and Chuckie Keeton.	Biggest game of the year is on the road: La. Tech in mid-November.	Momentum continues from strong finish to 2011; Aggies once again become bowl eligible.
3. San Jose State	The defensive front will be a force and there's talent at the skill positions.	Starting over at QB after Tate Forcier's abrupt offseason departure.	If newcomer David Fales provides stability at QB, Spartans will challenge for WAC title.
4. New Mexico State	Aggies bound to move up with departure of Nevada, Hawaii and Fresno State.	A defense that couldn't stop anyone in 2011 returns just four starters.	NMSU should be better but isn't ready to break into league's top tier.
5. Idaho	All-American punter Bobby Cowan (46.4 yards per punt) returns.	It's never a good sign when your punter is your best player.	Vandals lost too much on both lines to keep pace with La. Tech, USU and SJSU.
6. Texas State	The Bobcats return 14 starters and have a proven coach in Dennis Franchione.	They aren't in the FCS anymore: Talent upgrades needed at every position.	If TSU wins more than two WAC games, Franchione should get COY consideration.
7. UTSA	Program has significant long-term potential because of resources and in-state talent.	In the short term, wins will be tough to find. Minot State no longer on schedule.	Despite loads of returning starters, Roadrunners unlikely to win more than one or two WAC games.

Lindy's 2012 ALL-WAC Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM

QB	Colby Cameron	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
RB	Kerwynn Williams	Sr.	Utah State
RB	Hunter Lee	So.	Louisiana Tech
WR	Quinton Patton	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
WR	Noel Grigsby	Jr.	San Jose State
TE	Ryan Otten	Sr.	San Jose State
C	Stephen Warner	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
OL	David Quessenberry	Sr.	San Jose State
OL	Tyler Larsen	Jr.	Utah State
OL	Davonte Wallace	Jr.	New Mexico State
OL	Oscar Molina-Sanchez	Sr.	Utah State
AP	Kerwynn Williams	Sr.	Utah State
K	Matt Nelson	Sr.	Louisiana Tech

DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM

DL	Travis Johnson	Sr.	San Jose State
DL	Justin Ellis	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
DL	Travis Raciti	So.	San Jose State
DL	Walton Taumoepeau	Sr.	New Mexico State
LB	Bojay Filimoeatu	Sr.	Utah State
LB	Keith Smith	Jr.	San Jose State
LB	Joplo Bartu	Sr.	Texas State
DB	Chad Boyd	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DB	Gary Walker	Sr.	Idaho
DB	McKade Brady	Sr.	Utah State
DB	Jamel Johnson	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
P	Ryan Allen	Sr.	Louisiana State

OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM

QB	Andrew Manley	So.	New Mexico State
RB	DeLeon Eskridge	Sr.	San Jose State
RB	Terrence Franks	So.	Texas State
WR	Myles White	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
WR	Jabari Carr	So.	San Jose State
TE	Mike LaGrone	Jr.	Idaho
C	Nicholas Kaspar	So.	San Jose State
OL	Kevin Saia	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
OL	Eric Schultz	Jr.	Utah State
OL	Andrew Kersten	Sr.	New Mexico State
OL	Oscar Johnson	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
AP	Justin Veltung	Sr.	Idaho
K	Trey Farquhar	Sr.	Idaho

DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM

DL	Donte Savage	Sr.	New Mexico State
DL	Shakeil Lucas	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
DL	Anthony Larceval	Jr.	San Jose State
DL	Al Lapuaho	Sr.	Utah State
LB	B.J. Adolpho	Sr.	New Mexico State
LB	Steven Kurfehs	Jr.	UTSA
LB	Conrad Scheidt	Sr.	Idaho
DB	Nevin Lawson	Jr.	Utah State
DB	Dave Clark	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DB	Quinn Giles	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DB	Ronnie Yell	Sr.	San Jose State
P	Bobby Cowan	Sr.	Idaho

THE BIG ONES

Aug. 30	Louisiana Tech vs. Texas A&M (Shreveport)
Sept. 1	Texas State at Houston
Sept. 1	San Jose State at Stanford
Sept. 7	Utah at Utah State
Sept. 8	Louisiana Tech at Houston
Sept. 15	Utah State at Wisconsin
Sept. 15	Idaho at LSU
Sept. 29	San Jose State at Navy
Oct. 5	Utah State at BYU
Oct. 13	Utah State at San Jose State
Nov. 3	New Mexico State at Auburn
Nov. 17	Utah State at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 17	BYU at San Jose State
Nov. 24	BYU at New Mexico State
Nov. 24	Louisiana Tech at San Jose State

BOWL CONNECTIONS

Champion Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

WAC
WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

TOP 5 NFL TALENT

1. David Quessenberry	OT	Sr.	San Jose State	Potential to be mid-round draft pick.
2. Stephen Warner	C	Sr.	La. Tech	Multi-year starter anchors the WAC's best line.
3. Ryan Otten	TE	Sr.	San Jose State	Averaged 14.2 yards per catch, 5 TDs.
4. Quinton Patton	WR	Sr.	La. Tech	Big-play wideout on Biletnikoff Award watch list.
5. Kerwynn Williams	RB/KR	Sr.	Utah State	Averaged 116.9 all-purpose yards per game.

Most Valuable Player

Colby Cameron
QB, Louisiana Tech

Offensive Player of the Year

Kerwynn Williams
RB/KR, Utah State

Defensive Player of the Year

Travis Johnson
DE, San Jose State

Newcomer of the Year

Shaun Rutherford
QB, Texas State

HONOR ROLL

Most Accurate Passer	Colby Cameron	Louisiana Tech
Strongest Arm	David Fales	San Jose State
Best Scrambler	Shaun Rutherford	Texas State
Coolest in the Clutch	Colby Cameron	Louisiana Tech
Toughest to Bring Down	Kerwynn Williams	Utah State
Best Hands	Noel Grigsby	San Jose State
Most Dangerous Deep Threat	Quinton Patton	Louisiana Tech
Best Pass Blocker	David Quessenberry	San Jose State
Best Run Blocker	Tyler Larsen	Utah State
Best Pass Rusher	Travis Johnson	San Jose State
Best Cover Corner	Jumanne Robertson	Utah State
Special Teams Demon	Kerwynn Williams	Utah State

SAN JOSE STATE | SPARTANS

WAC rank: 3 | Record: 5-7 | WAC record: 3-4 (T-4th) | Stadium: Spartan Stadium (30,456)

By Jon Wilner

Photo by Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

"We have some good options. It's mostly a matter of figuring out who we're going to put where." — Offensive line coach Gary Bernardi

SPARTANS at a GLANCE

COACH: Mike MacIntyre — At SJSU and overall: 6-19, 2 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brian Lindgren
DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Kent Baer

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1991, Big West co-champs
LAST BOWL: 2006, New Mexico
RETURNING STARTERS: 12; 6 offense, 5 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB De'Leon Eskridge, WR Jabari Carr, OT David Quessenberry, TE Ryan Otten, DT Travis Raciti, DE Travis Johnson, LB Keith Smith

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Spartans have one of the most talent groups of receivers in the WAC (Carr, Noel Grigsby and Chandler Jones) and a big-play tight end. Quessenberry is a first-rate left tackle for the quarterback's blind side. The defensive line is stout and the linebacking unit is deep at every position.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Quarterback, quarterback and, um, quarterback: There are significant questions about every candidate. The offensive line features three new starters; the retooled secondary must replace all-league safety Duke Ihenacho and the kicking game needs consistency.

OFFENSE

The outlook for San Jose State changed dramatically over the winter when quarterback Tate Forcier quit school. The mercurial Michigan transfer was expected to lead SJSU in 2012; his departure created a void at the position.

In response, the Spartans signed junior college transfer David Fales, a former Nevada reserve with mobility and experience in the option offense that SJSU prefers. After a slow start, he appeared to take control of the competition when spring practice ended. Dasmen Stewart and Blake Jurich are also in the hunt for the job.

The Spartans will have depth at running back with Minnesota transfer De'Leon Eskridge, veteran David Freeman — he started his career at Washington — and versatile Tyler Ervin, who might be used at cornerback.

They're in fine shape at tight end, with first-team All-WAC performer Ryan Otten (52 catches last year), and are four-deep at receiver.

All-league left tackle David Quessenberry anchors a line that is in mild transition. SJSU also lost savvy play-caller John DeFilippo, who took a similar position with the Oakland Raiders. He was replaced by Brian Lindgren, formerly of Northern Arizona.

DEFENSE

San Jose State should reap the benefits of starting a bevy of young players the past two years due to injuries and roster holes.

While the Spartans officially return just five defensive starters, the reality is that 10 positions have players with significant game experience. The line features two of the best at their position in the league: end Travis Johnson (19 career sacks) and high-motor tackle Travis Raciti, who moves like an end despite his 286-pound frame.

Junior Keith Smith, a tackling machine (220 in two years), leads a linebacking unit that's deep and athletic. Look for Vince Buhagiar, who started in 2010 as a true freshman, to handle duties at middle linebacker.

The secondary must replace all-league safety Duke Ihenacho. There's no way to sugarcoat the impact of his departure, but Cullen Newsome was solid in spot duty last year, and James Orth is a veteran at the other safety spot.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Harrison Waid wasn't ready for the placekicking duties when thrust into action as a freshman in 2010. He needs to be sharp this season with the departure of Jens Alvernick, who connected on 18 of 25 field-goal attempts last year. Waid will have double duty; he's a more-than-adequate punter (42.8 yards per game).

Tyler Ervin gives SJSU a game-changer on kickoff returns (24 yards per return, one touchdown last year), but the punt return game must be improved.

OVERVIEW

A deeper, more talented roster — especially on the defensive line — combined with turnover within the WAC presents San Jose State with an opportunity: The Spartans should be one of the top teams in the revamped league. Given consistent quarterback play, SJSU could compete for the conference title and its first bowl berth since 2006.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB David Fales: The junior began his career at Nevada behind Colin Kaepernick, then spent two years at Monterey Peninsula College before joining SJSU in time for spring practice. Fales possesses good mobility and throws a crisp ball. It would be a mild surprise if he's not the starter in Week 1.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	10	David Fales	6-3	220	Jr.
RB	4	David Freeman	5-8	202	Sr.
WR	**22**	**Jabari Carr***	**6-0**	**180**	**So.**
WR	**89**	**Chandler Jones***	**5-11**	**174**	**Jr.**
WR	**23**	**Noel Grigsby***	**5-11**	**175**	**Jr.**
TE	**82**	**Ryan Otten***	**6-5**	**245**	**Sr.**
LT	**76**	**David Quessenberry***	**6-6**	**291**	**Sr.**
LG	74	Ryan Jones	6-4	292	Jr.
C	54	Reuben Hasani	6-3	284	Jr.
RG	**75**	**Nicholas Kaspar***	**6-4**	**284**	**Jr.**
RT	79	Jon Meyer	6-5	275	Jr.
DEFENSE					
DE	**43**	**Travis Johnson***	**6-3**	**244**	**Sr.**
DT	**90**	**Travis Raciti***	**6-5**	**286**	**So.**
DT	97	Anthony Larceval	6-2	284	Jr.
DE	96	Marcus Howard	6-2	300	So.
LB	**31**	**Keith Smith***	**6-2**	**229**	**Jr.**
LB	36	Vince Buhagiar	6-4	237	Jr.
LB	34	Derek Muaava	6-0	235	So.
CB	**25**	**Ronnie Yell***	**5-10**	**188**	**Sr.**
CB	20	Tyler Ervin	5-10	176	So.
S	39	Cullen Newsome	5-10	207	Sr.
S	**81**	**James Orth***	**6-2**	**206**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	10	Harrison Waid	6-1	173	Jr.
P	**10**	**Harrison Waid***	**6-1**	**173**	**Jr.**

*Returning starter

2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	at Stanford
Sept. 8	UC Davis
Sept. 15	COLORADO STATE
Sept. 22	at San Diego State
Sept. 29	at Navy
Oct. 13	UTAH STATE
Oct. 20	at UTSA
Oct. 27	TEXAS STATE
Nov. 3	at Idaho
Nov. 10	at New Mexico State
Nov. 17	BYU
Nov. 24	LOUISIANA TECH

2011 RESULTS

L	at Stanford	3-57
L	at UCLA	17-27
L	NEVADA	14-17
W	NEW MEXICO STATE	34-24
W	at Colorado State	38-31
L	at BYU	16-29
W	HAWAII	28-27
L	at Louisiana Tech	28-38
L	IDAHO	29-32
L	at Utah State	33-34
W	NAVY	27-24
W	at Fresno State	27-24

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	24.5	80
Rushing	101.8	110
Passing	276.8	23
Total	378.7	69

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.3	86
Rushing	204.3	106
Pass	221.3	54
Total	425.7	93

TO MARGIN		
+1	+0.08	49

UTAH STATE | AGGIES

WAC rank: 2 | Record: 7-6 | WAC record: 5-2 (2nd) | Stadium: Romney Stadium (25,513)

By Chadd Cripe

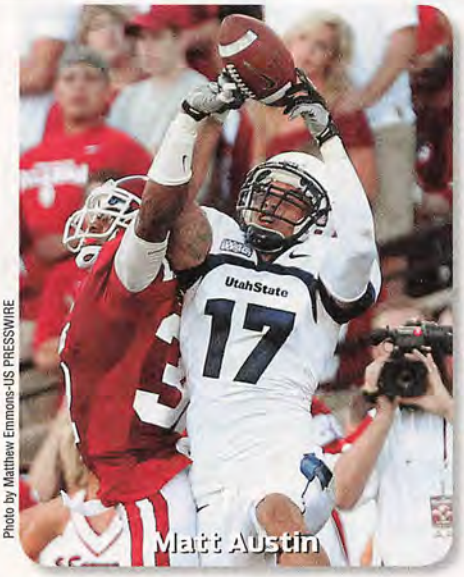


Photo by Matthew Emmons-US PRESSWIRE

Matt Austin

"It's an exciting time for Aggie football. We want to keep the momentum going that we gained with the bowl game last season, and we are all anxious to get rolling."

— Coach Gary Andersen

AGGIES at a GLANCE

COACH: Gary Andersen — At Utah State: 15-22, 3 years; **OVERALL:** 19-29, 4 years
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Matt Wells
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Aranda

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1997, Big West co-champions
LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2010
RETURNING STARTERS: 13; 5 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Chuckie Keeton, QB Adam Kennedy, RB Kerwynn Williams, WR Matt Austin, C Tyler Larsen, DT Al Lapuaho

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Aggies have developed an exciting offense with a powerful running game and terrific speed. The unit should be dynamic again with experience on the offensive line and at quarterback.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The defense produced only 15 turnovers last year and must do better even without its top two playmakers. The offense also lost significant star power in two tailbacks who combined for 2,387 rushing yards and 34 total touchdowns last year.

OFFENSE

The Aggies return five starters, including three linemen, from an offense that set school records for total yards (5,945), rushing yards (3,675), points (437) and touchdowns (60).

The three returning linemen — All-WAC center Tyler Larsen (25), right guard Eric Schultz (19) and right tackle Oscar Molina-Sanchez (20) — have combined for 64 career starts.

Senior running back Kerwynn Williams (6.7 yards per carry) will try to replace WAC Offensive Player of the Year Robert Turbin. Senior Matt Austin (34 catches, six TDs) was the team's leading receiver last year.

Quarterback is both one of the team's top question marks and strengths.

Sophomore Chuckie Keeton started the first eight games last year as a true freshman, producing 15 total touchdowns before getting hurt. Senior Adam Kennedy replaced him and went 5-1 while completing 69.1 percent of his passes and throwing for 11 touchdowns.

Quarterbacks coach Matt Wells was elevated to offensive coordinator in the offseason, replacing Colorado State-bound Dave Baldwin.

DEFENSE

The Aggies' 3-4 defense allowed 366.2 yards per game last season, the fewest since 1998.

Six starters return, but there's a gaping hole in the tackles chart — departed linebackers Bobby Wagner and Kyle Gallagher combined for 247 tackles last season. Those two also combined for three of the team's anemic four interceptions.

The backbone of this defense could be the secondary, with three returning starters — safety McKade Brady (86 tackles, six pass breakups,) and cornerbacks Nevin Lawson and Jumanne Robertson. Lawson and Robertson combined to break up 22 passes.

Senior end Al Lapuaho is the only returning starter on the line, but he's joined by five other letterwinners. Linebackers Tavaris McMillian (7.5 tackles for loss) and Bojay Filimoeatu (11 tackles for loss) are playmakers.

Coach Gary Andersen ran the defense last year in an attempt to get the Aggies on track, but he hired former Hawaii coordinator Dave Aranda to take over this year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Returning kicker Josh Thompson was just 6 of 10 on field-goal attempts last season. Punter Tyler Bennett returns — and he was impressive last year, with a 43.8-yard average. Williams, the tailback, holds the WAC record for career kickoff-return yards.

OVERVIEW

The Aggies might have turned a corner as a program last season, when they won five consecutive games to close the regular season, including four by scoring with less than one minute on the clock. That produced the first bowl berth in 14 years — a game the Aggies lost in painful fashion, allowing a touchdown to Ohio with 13 seconds left in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. The Aggies hope to use the confidence they gained late in the year — and perhaps the frustration of that final loss — to make a run at their first WAC title.

TOP NEWCOMER

LB Kyler Fackrell: The 6-5, 236-pound redshirt freshman used an impressive spring to emerge as a possible starter at outside linebacker. He played linebacker, wide receiver and quarterback in high school.

2012 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE					
QB	**16**	**Chuckie Keeton***	**6-2**	**198**	**So.**
RB	25	Kerwynn Williams	5-9	193	Sr.
WR	80	Chuck Jacobs	6-0	178	Sr.
WR	8	Travis Reynolds	6-0	179	Jr.
WR	**4**	**Matt Austin***	**6-2**	**200**	**Sr.**
TE	81	Kellen Bartlett	6-2	250	Sr.
LT	74	Kyle Whimpey	6-5	287	So.
LG	54	Jamie Markosian	6-2	298	Jr.
C	**58**	**Tyler Larsen***	**6-4**	**308**	**Jr.**
RG	**66**	**Eric Schultz***	**6-4**	**304**	**Jr.**
RT	**67**	**Oscar Molina-Sanchez***	**6-5**	**297**	**Sr.**
DEFENSE					
DE	**77**	**Al Lapuaho***	**6-3**	**289**	**Sr.**
NG	70	Travis Seefeldt	6-2	296	Fr.
DE	40	Connor Williams	6-3	266	Jr.
LB	**16**	**Tavaris McMillian***	**6-2**	**231**	**So.**
LB	51	Jake Doughty	6-0	227	Jr.
LB	52	Kyler Fackrell	6-5	236	Fr.
LB	**55**	**Bojay Filimoeatu***	**6-2**	**256**	**Sr.**
CB	**13**	**Jumanne Robertson***	**5-11**	**181**	**Sr.**
CB	**1**	**Nevin Lawson***	**5-10**	**184**	**Jr.**
SS	21	Brian Suite	6-3	207	So.
FS	**36**	**McKade Brady***	**5-11**	**198**	**Sr.**
SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	**19**	**Josh Thompson***	**5-9**	**185**	**Jr.**
P	**41**	**Tyler Bennett***	**5-11**	**216**	**Sr.**

*Returning starter

2012 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	SOUTHERN UTAH
Sept. 7	UTAH
Sept. 15	at Wisconsin
Sept. 22	at Colorado State
Sept. 29	UNLV
Oct. 5	at BYU
Oct. 13	at San Jose State
Oct. 20	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 27	at UTSA
Nov. 3	TEXAS STATE
Nov. 17	at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 24	IDAHO

2011 RESULTS

L	at Auburn	38-42
W	WEBER STATE	54-17
L	COLORADO STATE	34-35
L	at BYU	24-27
W	WYOMING	63-19
L	at Fresno State	21-31
L	LOUISIANA TECH	17-24
W	at Hawaii	35-31
W	SAN JOSE STATE	34-33
W	at Idaho (OT)	49-42
W	NEVADA	21-17
W	at New Mexico State	24-21
	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl	
L	vs. Ohio	23-24

2011 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	33.6	23
Rushing	282.7	6
Passing	174.6	97
Total	457.3	20

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.9	68
Rushing	127.8	31
Pass	238.5	76
Total	366.2	50

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-9	-0.69	106

A LOOK BACK

5 Years Ago: 2007

The Pac-10 caught up to USC, which was near the end of its modern glory days. While the Trojans would win a record sixth straight title (and become the first team in college football history to win 11 games six years in a row), the season really belonged to Stanford, Oregon and ASU. Stanford was a 41-point underdog when it scored one of the biggest upsets ever, 24-23, in Jim Harbaugh's first game against Pete Carroll. Later in October, Mike Bellotti's Oregon Ducks beat USC, rose to No. 2 in the polls, twice hosted College GameDay ... but then an injury to star QB Dennis Dixon precipitated a three-game losing streak at the end of the season. That enabled Dennis Erickson's ASU Sun Devils to rise into a tie with USC for the league championship.

Pac-10 Co-Champions: USC (11-2, 7-2), Arizona State (10-3, 7-2)

Pac-10 Players of the Year: Dennis Dixon, QB, Oregon; Sedrick Ellis, DL, USC

Heisman Trophy: Tim Tebow, QB, Florida; Dixon was 5th.

National Champion: In the BCS title game, Ohio State took a quick 10-0 lead before the LSU Tigers rolled to 31 consecutive points en route to a 38-24 victory and their second title in five years.

10 Years Ago: 2002

Carson Palmer

Photo by Stephen Dunn/Getty Images

Early in the season, Washington State and USC staged a sensational overtime game, with the Cougars emerging, 30-27. Three months later, they were both in BCS games as Pac-10 co-champions. For USC, a 38-17 Orange Bowl victory over Iowa was quite a launching pad for Pete Carroll at the end of his second season. For the Cougs, it was different: They lost to Washington for the fifth consecutive season, then lived through coach Mike Price's awkward decision to leave for Alabama. He stayed through the Rose Bowl, where Oklahoma hammered the Cougs.

Pac-10 Co-Champions: Washington State (10-3, 7-1), USC (11-2, 7-1)

Pac-10 Players of the Year: Carson Palmer, QB, USC; Terrell Suggs, DE, ASU

Heisman Trophy: Carson Palmer, QB, USC; WSU QB Jason Gesser was 7th.

National Champion: Ohio State (14-0) shocked top-ranked Miami in the Fiesta Bowl, 31-24, in double-overtime after getting a controversial pass interference penalty to go its way at the end of the first overtime.

15 Years Ago: 1997

In a remarkable season and story of sudden success, Washington State captured its first Pac-10 title in 67 years. Mike Price's team followed junior quarterback Ryan Leaf (326 passing yards per game, 33 touchdowns) to a victory over UCLA to open the season, and later added memorable triumphs at the L.A. Coliseum and Husky Stadium. The Cougars were the fifth different team in as many years to win the Pac-10.

Pac-10 Champion: Washington State (10-2, 7-1)

Pac-10 Players of the Year: Ryan Leaf, QB, WSU; Pat Tillman, LB, ASU

Heisman Trophy: Michigan CB-WR-RS Charles Woodson became the first predominantly defensive player to win the award, edging Tennessee QB Peyton Manning in one of the closest and most surprising votes ever. Leaf was 3rd; UCLA QB Cade McNown was 8th.

National Champion: Michigan (12-0, AP poll) beat Washington State in the Rose Bowl, 21-16; Nebraska (13-0, coaches poll) beat Tennessee in the Orange, 42-17.

20 Years Ago: 1992

Drew Bledsoe

Photo By US PRESSWIRE

Washington was 8-0 amid a 22-game winning streak that included the 1991 undefeated national title season, and was sitting at No. 1 in the polls when the *Seattle Times* reported some possible misdeeds in the program. The Huskies immediately lost QB Billy Joe Hobert, and then lost at Arizona ... and then to Washington State ... and, finally, to Michigan in the Rose Bowl. A few months later, the Huskies were placed on two years of no-bowl probation, and coach Don James resigned in protest. Stanford (which had been crushed by UW, 41-7, the week before the scandal broke) gained a share of the league title, its first in 20 years.

Pac-10 Co-Champions: Washington (9-3, 6-2), Stanford (10-3, 6-2)

Pac-10 Players of the Year: Drew Bledsoe, QB, WSU; Dave Hoffmann, LB, Washington

Heisman Trophy: Gino Torretta, QB, Miami; WSU QB Drew Bledsoe was 8th; Stanford RB Glyn Milburn was 9th.

National Champion: Alabama won its seventh official national title by thrashing heavily favored Miami, 34-13. The Tide hammered Heisman Trophy-winning Torretta and snapped the Hurricanes' 29-game winning streak.

25 Years Ago: 1987

In one of those great USC-UCLA races and showdowns, the third-ranked Bruins took a 13-0 lead into the second half against the Trojans. Yet, USC roared back behind QB Rodney Peete to score a dramatic 17-13 victory, with a sensational, controversial, juggling touchdown reception by Erik Affholter. That sent the Trojans to the first of three consecutive Rose Bowls under Larry Smith.

Pac-10 Co- Champions: USC (8-4, 7-1), UCLA (10-2, 7-1)

Pac-10 Players of the Year: Troy Aikman, QB, UCLA; Chuck Cecil, DB, Arizona

Heisman Trophy: Tim Brown, WR-RS, Notre Dame; UCLA RB Gaston Green was 8th.

National Champion: No. 2 Miami (12-0) beat No. 1 Oklahoma in the winner-take-all Orange Bowl, 20-14.

50 Years Ago: 1962

John McKay was in just his third year as a head coach, following a couple of four-win seasons at USC. But he had apparently recruited well, and suddenly, his Trojans were unbeatable. Indeed, they went 10-0 to capture the national championship, back when the final polls were taken before the bowl games. For good measure, USC took all that Big Ten champion Wisconsin could offer in one of the Rose Bowl's greatest games. Wisconsin' Ron Vander Kelen passed for a record 401 yards, but Trojan Pete Beathard threw for a record four touchdown passes and the Trojans held on to win, 42-37. It was the first of four national championships under McKay (1962, 1967, 1972, 1974).

AAWU Champion: USC (11-0, 4-0)

AAWU Player of the Year: Terry Baker, QB, Oregon State

Heisman Trophy: Terry Baker, QB, Oregon State

National Champion: The polls closed at the end of the regular season, but the first time No. 1 ever faced No. 2 in a bowl game didn't disappoint, as top-ranked Southern California outlasted Wisconsin, 42-37.

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